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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 128
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the right choice

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BEN'S TASTE OF FREEDOM

Kent X Factor finalist Ben Mills will launch his second album in Canterbury this weekend.

The singer-songwriter's debut album sold more than 100,000 copies since its release in 2007. After three years of performing and writing new material the musician has returned with his second album Freedom. The launch will take place at 7.45pm at the Gulbenkian Theatre on Saturday, March 13. Tickets are £14 and can be bought by visiting www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or by calling 01227 769 075.

■ BY JILL HURST

BROGDALE Farm has promised to police its business more effectively after fierce opposition from neighbours over changes to the site.

Council planners agreed to the installation of 10 five and six-meter single and double lights together with accompanying advertising banners in the main car park forecourt when they met to discuss the site in Ospringe, on Thursday, March 4.

Councillors also agreed to the conversion of a cold store to another business unit.

Fed-up neighbours appealed for the decision to be rejected saying their lives were made miserable enough by lights shining into their homes during the night and lorries coming and going in the early hours of the morning.

Community spokesman Joan Toby, of Brogdale Farm House, told planners occupants of the 47 neighbouring homes feared the farm was gradually being developed into a light industrial site.

She said: "There has been a steady flow of planning applications and there are now 22 business units operating from the site. The developer has also put in an application to develop 89 new homes.

"Lorries come and go until as late as 3am creating continual noise, and halogen lights installed at the site are on all through the night, shining into the homes of neighbours.

"Weekends are a particular problem for noise, but of course no one is at Swale council to contact for help. The butcher of Brogdale has signs on the A2 advertising his business

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I'd do it again, says thug who killed his dog

■ BY JILL HURST

A VIOLENT thug who used a claw hammer to batter a dog to death mocked his sentence and said he would do the same again to another animal.

Showing no remorse, unemployed Christopher Dance unleashed a string of obscenities outside Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on March 4 shouting: "I'm happy with what I got, I beat the s**t out of that dog and I'd do it again as well. This tag is nothing, I'll p**s it and I p**s on them [magistrates]."

Dance, formerly of Knightsfield Road, Sittingbourne, was found guilty of causing a Staffordshire bull terrier unnecessary suffering and failing to take reasonable steps to ensure the needs of another animal after a Jack Russell died as a result of a dog fight in his garden.

His conviction followed him abandoning four unfamiliar dogs, including one previously used for illegal dog-fights, for hours in his garden while he went to a party.

Sentencing the 23-year-old, Judge Tim Bucher banned Dance from leaving his Maidstone home in Melville Road between 9pm and 7am for the next six months. He will have to wear an electronic tag for the duration of the curfew.

He was also sentenced to a 24-month community order.

Mr Bucher also banned Dance from keeping or owning dogs for 10 years and ordered him to pay £750 costs to the RSPCA.

The court heard how Dance obtained the bull terrier to make him feel more masculine after becoming fed up of living in an all-female household. He claimed he



BATTERED: The dead Staffordshire bull terrier, and right, RSPCA chief inspector Dermot Murphy



killed the dog in self-defence after it killed a friend's Jack Russell and attacked two other dogs. He said he swung out with the hammer and clipped the dog while protecting himself.

However, prosecution witnesses dismissed his claims, saying his injuries should have been substantial, but he had only a small scratch on his thumb. They said the dog had multiple fractures and its "brain was mush" from being pummeled so many times.

A puppy would later die as a result of its own ordeal, taking the toll of dead animals to three.

Speaking after the trial, RSPCA Chief Inspector Dermot Murphy said: "We are satisfied with the sentence. Dance's liberty will be restricted and together with the lengthy disqualification and impingement on his financial means we feel the punishment reflects the crime."

We'll stick to hours, pledges farm boss

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

when the council forbade the cottage hospital from doing the same thing.

"There have even been helicopters landing and taking off and the noise is unacceptable.

"If we have to see the changes then please enforce the hours of business between 8am and 6pm and ensure the lights are turned off by 9pm."

Developer Tony Hillier, of Hillreed Homes, pledged to uphold the terms of the planning agreement and enforce the operating hours of the farm.

He said: "The lights have been designed to ensure minimum leakage."

"More than 15,000 visitors and thousands of children visit the site every year and it has become a major tourist attraction. It is our duty of care to ensure they can continue to do so safely."

"However, we will ensure the hours and conditions are policed rigorously."

Neighbours fail in bid to stop 'noisy' tennis

COUNCILLORS rejected a plea from neighbours of a proposed tennis court who claimed the noise of the ball would ruin their summer.

Officials voted in favour of the court at a house in Bethel Row, Faversham, at a meeting of the planning committee on Thursday, March 4.

The Grade 2 listed building is in the Kent Downs area of outstanding natural beauty.

The motion was carried by majority vote. The applicant agreed to sink the court deeper into the ground and plant hedging to muffle any sound.

Drink-driver banned

MAGISTRATES banned a Faversham man from driving after he was caught at the wheel more than twice the alcohol limit.

Clive Eldridge, of Painters Forstal, pleaded guilty at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on February 26, to driving in Preston Street while under the influence of alcohol. Eldridge had 83 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

The 60-year-old was disqualified from driving for 20 months, fined £100 and ordered to pay £100 costs.

Court results published online

SOME people who appear before magistrates will now find their names on the Kent police website.

Justice Minister Claire Ward visited Kent Police HQ in Maidstone on Monday for the official launch of the new service, a first in Britain.

Ms Ward congratulated Kent Police on setting up the system, which follows her department's commitment to let more people see what goes on in the courts of Britain.

"We want to make sure that people see the whole process, from the original offence through to conviction," she told her audience, which included chairman of the Kent Police Authority Ann Barnes.

She added: "It is not just about justice being done, but also justice being seen to be done."

Details about defendants are sim-

ple and include the name, age and address of the person convicted, appearance date, court and the sentence.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beauridge told guests that the website was an important part of continually reassuring the public in one of the lowest crime areas of Britain.

He said: "The public are often aware when we arrest people but haven't always been finding out how they are then dealt with. Working with our website, our newsletters and with the newspapers across Kent we hope to bridge that gap."

Kent police developed the service in co-operation with newspaper groups from the county and KOS Media's group editor Gary Wright and KM senior editor Bob Bounds were invited to speak to the minister.

The court details will also be provided to the county's newspapers.

Mr Wright said: "I spoke with the minister who knew how newspapers find it increasingly difficult to be in court all of the time and this step by Kent police will help more people see more of what goes on. This new service is useful to us as well."

ACC Beauridge said: "I am really grateful for the advice we have received from KOS Media about our Justice Seen, Justice Done feature."

"It was important to understand what readers want to know about, and that's why we called on the expertise of one of the county's senior journalists as part of our consultation before we launched this."

To see the latest court results, go to www.kent.police.uk and click on the Justice Seen Justice Done icon.

Drink driver who hit son 'got away lightly'

A MOTHER whose son was rushed to hospital on a spinal board after being hit by a drink driver blasted the "soft punishment" handed out by magistrates.

Tania Allen, of Saddlebrook Park, Leysdown, pleaded guilty to failing to provide a specimen of breath and driving without due care and attention on December 3, 2009.

She appeared at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on March 3 where she received a 16-month driving ban and a £550 fine.

The court heard how the 47-year-old drank several glasses of wine with work colleagues, but despite knowing she could be over the legal limit chose to drive her BMW home.

On the way she rammed into the back of Shane Faulkener's motorbike in Eastchurch High Street, flinging him from his seat and wedging the bike under Allen's car.

As her 21-year-old victim was rushed to hospital with suspected injuries to his head and spine, Allen, who police said smelled of alcohol, failed to give a breath test on three occasions, sucking and puffing on the breathalyzer and holding her breath.

While she faces a £550 fine, Shane continues to repay the £3,000 loan he took out to buy his dream bike, which is now a mangled mess.

Speaking after the trial, Shane's mum Karen Faulkener, of Manor Road, Queenborough, said: "I was in bed when I got a call to say my son was being rushed to hospital. I felt sick. It's every mother's nightmare.

"He was crying and in pain and said he was really scared. He told us he thought he was

EXCLUSIVE

BY JILL HURST

going to die when he saw the wheels of her car. It was a horrific ordeal.

"When I found out it was a drunken woman driving the car I was appalled. I hoped today we'd get justice but I don't feel like this is the case. It was a soft punishment. I think a 16-month ban and a fine is pathetic.

"That woman has never once said sorry. She's shown no remorse or regret apart from how it's affected her life. In court today all we heard was how her job has been affected or how she has had attention from the press, but has she thought how our lives have been affected?

"My son is still suffering from his injuries. He gets flashbacks and has to see a physiotherapist because he is still has pain from his back and neck injuries."

Mrs Faulkener says although Shane, who studied at Minster College and now works as a fabricator, received an insurance payout, it was not enough to replace his bike.

She added: "It's sickening that essentially the accident has cost Shane more than her. He has months left on his original loan, but is driving a second hand bike."

Allen, who works at Barclays Bank in Sittingbourne, must now wait to hear if she will lose her job after 19 years.

However, Mrs Faulkener has no sympathy for Allen's plight. "A 16-month ban is nothing. She should have been given a four or five-year ban or at the very least be made to take her driving test again. I have no sympathy for her."



FLASHBACKS: Accident victim Shane Faulkener

Lifeboats rescue stranded crew

TWO lifeboats were launched from Sheerness after a 36 foot angling boat ran aground in East Hoo Creek on the River Medway.

Both the all-weather and inshore lifeboats raced to the rescue at 11.13am on March 6.

They found four anglers were aboard the Julie Sue together with its owner.

On arrival RNLI Sheerness third mechanic Andy Matthews went aboard the stranded vessel to find the five men safe but using bilge pumps to bail out water from a minor leak.

The craft was escorted back to Gillingham and lifeboat crew were back in Sheerness by 1.18pm.



Blowtorch sparks pub roof blaze

A PUB on the Isle of Sheppey had a lucky escape when a stray spark from a blow torch set fire to its roof.

Firefighters were called to the Wheat Sheaf Inn on Warden Road at 11.04am on March 6. One square metre of the roof of the property was destroyed by the blaze, which started as a welder worked on repairs.

Crews from Sheppey and Eastchurch attended the scene where they used thermal imaging equipment to eliminate any remaining hotspots.

Pensioners fight off attackers

TWO pensioners fought off robbers who sprayed them in the face with hair spray as they walked along Strode Crescent, Sheerness.

The victims were in Newcomen Road at 5.10pm on March 4 when they were attacked by two men aged between 20 and 25 years old, armed with an aerosol can.

Police sergeant Neil Kimber of the area crime unit said: "Before any threats could be made the two victims managed to fight off their assailants, who then ran off down Newcomen Road towards Alma Road.

"We are keen to hear from anyone in the area at the time or who may know these two men."

If you have information call Sittingbourne police on 01795 419366 or Kent Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.

Slip-up sparks fire

A MICROWAVE blew up after a Faversham woman mistakenly heated up her slippers for three hours instead of three minutes.

Firefighters were called to the flat in Grange Mews at 11.37pm on March 6 to tackle the resulting fire.

Two crews from Faversham were on the scene within minutes and damage was isolated to the microwave. She was advised to buy new slippers.

Medical kit helps to recover stolen goods

IT'S equipment normally associated with hospitals and surgeons, but specialist police officers in Swale are using an endoscope to track down stolen goods.

In a series of raids involving 40 officers, cops used the £40,000 kit to search properties used by burglars in Sittingbourne and Sheerness.

The endoscope has already helped officers to track down a range of stolen goods, including credit cards, driving licences, cigarettes, alcohol, electronic equipment and jewellery.

By using a small probe and a control panel officers can search in wall cavities, ceilings and under floor boards and view the results on a TV screen attached to the main unit.

"Thieves hide goods in all manner of places, whether that's up a chimney, in lofts or under floor boards," said uniformed tactical team operations sergeant Russ Phillips.

"This technology means we can look under floorboards, inside chimney breasts and wall cavities and under insulation in lofts.

"The kit also enables us to take photos and record digitally any hidden items. We don't use it every day, but in detailed searches it comes into its own."

During the operation a house in



DETAILED SEARCH: Sgt Russ Phillips

Vincent Gardens, Sheerness, was raided following a tip-off that burglars were using it.

A 16-year-old was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and breaching his bail conditions together with drug offences.

If you suspect someone is involved in burglary or drug offences contact Sittingbourne Police on 01795 419366 or Crimestoppers confidentially on 0800 555111.

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Eastern and Coastal Kent



COLD COMFORT: Protestors were conspicuous by their absence outside Sittingbourne Magistrates' Court

Court short, but protestors shun chilly pavement

THEY face drug addicts, robbers and violent thugs on a daily basis – but going out in the cold to protest against Government cuts was a bridge too far for magistrates court officials.

While up to 270,000 of their civil servant colleagues took part in a 48-hour, country-wide protest against plans to scrap redundancy pay, court staff in Sittingbourne chose to remain inside the building.

One court worker said although banners had been made and plans laid to take part in possibly the biggest unrest in the public sector for more than two decades, after dipping their toe into the crisp Monday air, staff called the whole thing off.

He added: "You won't get a court case here today. They've all been cancelled due to the strike. It's been like this all day.

"The banners were made and ready and staff were supposed to be outside. Have they been out? Have they ever. It's too cold for this lot. The banners are still in the back room. I'm taking one as a souvenir."

Despite their absence outside court, there was an equal lack of action indoors as most scheduled cases were adjourned.

Those due to be sentenced were sent home

■ BY JILL HURST

leaving one skeleton court struggling to keep the system going. The 48-hour walkout on Monday and Tuesday involved workers from courts, ports, job and tax centres and emergency police stations nationwide.

It was organised by the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCSU), whose members fear losing a third of their entitlement through cuts to the civil service compensation scheme.

Under the new system, which takes effect in April, workers who take voluntary redundancy will have their pay-offs capped at £60,000. It will save the Government an estimated £500 million.

The PCSU, Britain's fifth biggest union, said an employee with 20 years' service could lose £20,000 as a result of new caps.

Striking members included staff at Government departments as well as workers in Parliament, museums and the Royal Courts of Justice.

A spokesman for the court service said while no courts were closed as a result of the action there may be a reduction in services.

PCSU spokesman Bernard Harkins said more action was planned ahead of the general election this year.

yoursware

NEWS IN BRIEF

Earth Hour council pledge

A SWITCH off will take place at Swale council buildings to mark Earth Hour for the second year in a row.

The worldwide event is planned to draw attention to climate change and will take place between 8.30pm and 9.30pm on Saturday, March 27.

Swale climate change officer Janet Hill said: "All non-essential lights in council buildings will be switched off to highlight our continued environmental work. Our aim is to embed climate change into our day-to-day work in order to make the district greener. "We encourage companies and individuals to take part and switch off their lights at 8.30pm on March 27 for one hour."

Last year's campaign saw landmarks around the world, including Big Ben, the Empire State building and the Eiffel Tower plunged into darkness. For more information, visit www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour.

Recycling figures improve

A WHOPPING 315 tonnes of glass and 800 tonnes of dry recyclables, such as paper and cardboard, were collected in Swale during February.

Recycling manager Peter Chegwiddden said: "We're pleased with the recycling figures for the district, which from the kerbside twin bins was nearly 37 per cent in February. We hope to keep this going and even improve."

Swale council sends glass to a company in Barnsley which has the technology to sort mixed glass into individual colours. Only glass bottles and jars can be placed into the glass section of the blue recycling bins. For more information, visit www.swale.co.uk.

Nuisance biker is warned

THERE was no easy ride for a nuisance motorcyclist in Teynham after police told him they will seize his bike unless he shows more consideration for neighbours.

The youth received the warning after officers stepped up patrols on land at Conyer Road following complaints that land was being used as an off-road track.

A police spokesman said: "A very small number of people ride bikes illegally, but they cause massive disruption. We will not tolerate illegal off-road bikes – anyone committing an offence will be dealt with."



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Paying the price after flytipping

A PROSECUTION for flytipping was successfully brought against a Faversham household after the man he paid to take rubbish away dumped it in Salters Lane.

Gary Grimes, of Finch Close, was fined £67 and ordered to pay £100 to Swale council to cover the cost of removing the waste, by Sittingbourne magistrates.

The court heard bags of waste were found dumped along the bridlepath. As well as newspapers, wood-shavings and peat, they also provided evidence linking the bags to Grimes. When interviewed he admitted responsibility for the waste, saying he had paid a man £5 to take it away.

A Swale council official said: "Last year we prosecuted 17 offenders for waste-related offences, more than any other district authority in Kent."



MESSING UP: Flytippers trash the countryside



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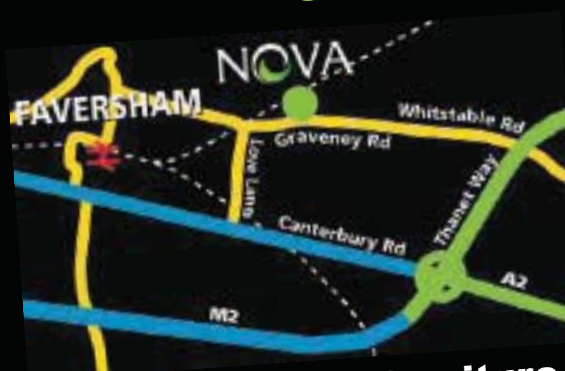
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Wood site be pollutant?

■ BY JILL HURST

AN ENVIRONMENTALIST has warned that a proposed renewable energy recycling plant in Sittingbourne will pump toxic fumes into the atmosphere.

One of the largest privately-owned waste management companies in the south-east, the Countrystyle group, has applied to Kent County Council for permission to open a biomass power plant at Ridham Dock.

If successful the plant will convert 30,000 tons of waste wood from landfill producing enough electricity to power 6,300 homes via the national grid substation at Kemsley.

Chemicals

However, Faversham and mid-Kent Green Party parliamentary candidate Tim Valentine said he was concerned that wood covered with lead paint or toxic metals would release harmful chemicals into the atmosphere.

He said: "I have some reservations about waste incineration as a power source because often the waste may be better used to recover useful material or it may not contribute much energy to the process. The first priority should be to reduce the amount of waste created in the first place. The second priority is to reuse waste material.

"If Countrystyle are burning locally-sourced, low-grade waste wood that could not be put to an alternative use it could make a useful contribution to a low-carbon future, but I would want to be reassured there are adequate controls to clean the emissions,



BURNING ISSUE: Countrystyle group have applied for permission to open a biomass power plant at Ridham Dock

especially from residues such as paint.

"The most efficient way to burn waste wood is in a local combined heat and power plant that supplies both heat and electricity to the local community and other businesses.

A spokesman for the company said: "The waste wood will contain small amounts of contamination which is the reason it has historically been sent to landfill rather than being recycled.

"The site will operate under an environmental permit and will undergo a detailed review of the design, specification, operation and control of the proposed technology to ensure the best available technique is employed throughout."

A spokesman for Kent County Council said:

"We are taking an in-depth look at provision for renewable energy in the county over the next few months.

"During spring and early summer 2010 we will assess the pros and cons of various types of renewable energy technology, and the role it could play in providing us with a secure and affordable energy supply in the future."

For more information on the proposed Ridham Dock site visit www.countrystyle-group.co.uk. To find out more about renewable energy in the county visit www.renewable.energy@kent.gov.uk

• **What do you think? Email yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk or write to Yourswale, Applebarn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR.**



ABODE: Affordable housing has been built in Lynsted

Councils address housing problem

ELEVEN new affordable homes have been built in Lynsted thanks to the collaboration of two parish councils.

Lynsted with Kingsdown and Tenynham councils campaigned for the homes at Cherry Fields, Lynsted Lane, after soaring house prices forced many to move away from the village.

It took 10 months to build the houses and four of the homes have been offered for sale on a shared ownership basis with the remainder being rented out at low cost.

The estate will be managed by English Rural housing association with the aim of ensuring people from the village can stay in the area.

With a school, shops, doctor surgery and a train station, the popularity of the village has led to an increase in demand for homes and pushed property prices beyond the means of many people born and brought up in the area.

Spokesman for English Rural, Adrian Maunders, said: "Like so many villagers across Kent, the lack of affordable homes is forcing many local households particularly the young, to move from rural communities in order to secure a suitable property elsewhere. The homes at Cherry Fields will go some way towards redressing the balance for Teynham and Lynsted."

you said

we did

You set priorities We take action



You were concerned about littering across the Swale district

Over one weekend in February, twelve £80 fines were handed out to offenders who dropped litter outside late night take-aways rather than placing litter in the bins provided



To report littering and fly-tipping in Swale, call Swale Borough Council on **01795 417850** or visit **www.swale.gov.uk**

For actions on priorities where you live visit:

www.kent.police.uk/yousaidwedid or www.swalecsp.co.uk



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

SIoux PETO



Q Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A I run LB Graphics, an art and design company. We specialise in corporate imaging for small companies. Last year I gained an honours degree in fine art, which extended my company further into the arts field. I'm also involved with The Polka Dot, an independent art space specialising in Swale-based artists. I run this with my partner Colin Barnard, who is a sculptor. This year we will be showing our own work at the centre, based on recycling materials. The Polka Dot also runs art workshops.

Q What is the Swale Arts Forum?

A It was formed three years ago by a group of like-minded people who wanted to promote the arts in Swale. It is now a respected organisation for artists and groups from all sectors of the creative industries. It brings together people from every aspect of the arts, including music, film, theatre, dance, creative writing and fine arts. The meetings are informal and encourage the exchange of ideas and information. Everyone is welcome but, obviously, we would like to encourage groups or individual artists to join the forum – it's just £25 per year.

Q How did you get involved?

A Two years ago I wanted to meet up with other local artists but didn't know where to

start. I saw a notice in the local paper about the Swale Arts Forum. The group meets in the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne. Last year I became chair. Colin and I set up a sub-group for visual artists called Swale Arts. We meet at the Red Lion, in Sittingbourne High Street, on the first Monday of each month at 8pm and have our first major exhibition at the Horsebridge Art Centre, Whitstable, from March 10 to 16.

Q What do you hope to achieve through the Forum?

A Inclusion and interaction. The Forum wants to ensure decisions made locally value, promote and support the arts in Swale. We actively seek creative collaboration, partnerships and co-operation for the benefit of the whole community, offering real incentives to artists and arts-based organisations to develop creative projects.

Q What's the best and worst bits of your job?

A The best thing is the people I meet. Swale is blessed with the most amazing talents and venues. We have a fantastic variety and diversity of everything. There really is so much going on here, it's just a bit harder to find than most places, but well worth looking. The worst bit is after putting in so much effort to run an event and no one turns up. That is so disheartening, but we still do it again because we are all passionate about our craft.

Q What sort of people is the Forum attracting?

A It encompasses the complete arts spectrum. We are looking to develop partnerships with heritage groups, local businesses, event management and tourism – in fact anything that will help promote the wealth of cultural activities that Swale has to offer.

Q How can arts help to regenerate Swale?

A The regeneration of Swale is a huge commitment. Working within communities, art can help find their soul and purpose – it has the ability to cross all boundaries if given the right environment. We are trying to create that environment.

Q Anything else you would like to say?

A Please support the efforts of the Swale Arts Forum as without you we achieve nothing. There will be a summer festival in Sittingbourne, a big heritage event in Sheerness, The Creek Creative project is opening in Faversham, the Polka Dot in Teynham has loads of workshops and artists will be at Perry Woods and Oare Gunpowder Works this summer. We have three Theatres in Swale and three cinemas, and a new arts project at Art at The Centre on Sheppey and Milton Creek project are both underway. So get involved – it is truly surprising what you will find!

Q & A

Sioux Peto runs an art design company and is the chairman of the Swale Arts Forum. She talks to **Jill Hurst** about how the arts are helping to regenerate the district and her wish to involve more of the community

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Pool cover will save us cash and carbon

A SWIMMING pool covers installed at Sheerness Healthy Living Centre will save thousands of pounds and cut carbon emissions.

The cover, purchased through an external grant obtained by Swale council, will save £8,490 a year by keeping the water warm overnight, allowing heaters to be switched off.

With the pool temperature unlikely to drop by more than a couple of degrees, staff will quickly be able to restore the heat to normal levels, saving an estimated 44.62 tonnes in carbon emissions a year.

The Swallows in Sittingbourne has also installed pool covers which are expected to save £11,500 a year in fuel costs and 61 tonnes of annual carbon emissions. Both clubs follow in the wake of Faversham pool, which installed covers last year.

Swale's Cllr Gerry Lewin said: "We are delighted the pool cover is in place. Faversham pool has shown they are a sound investment and provide real value as well as saving energy. We are committed to creating a cleaner and greener Swale. The cover will pay for itself within two years and start reducing carbon emissions straight away."

The generation gain

YOUNG and old will come together at a celebration morning being hosted by the Sheerness Healthy Living Centre on Monday.

The event will mark the successful collaboration of over-50s paired with unemployed 15 to 19-year-olds.

Older people are paired with a young mentor to guide them through a basic computing course, including social networking on the internet. For more information, visit www.swale.gov.uk.

Testing targets missed for the silent infection

■ BY JILL HURST

CHLAMYDIA testing in Swale has missed the Government's target by a massive 54 per cent.

The Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust was given the task of testing 3,500 15 to 24-year-olds as part of a national campaign to combat the spread of the most prevalent of all sexually-transmitted diseases. However, officials admit they have managed to reach just 1,611.

NHS community services spokesman Gary McFegan said: "We have struggled to get young people to come forward and while the Swale initiative has been going for less time than the rest of eastern and coastal Kent, the take up rate has been the worst.

"Like with many youngsters, it may be a case of what they think is important and the reality being two different things.

"It could also be that we need to think of different ways to get the message over to them, perhaps using different mediums to communicate such as texting, emailing or use of the internet.

"Young people need to understand that while it may not be hip and trendy to go for a test and while they may feel embarrassed, chlamydia is often a silent infection with very few or no noticeable symptoms. If left



HEALTHY OUTLOOK: Chlamydia testing is quick and easy

untreated it can cause long-term damage, spread to other parts of the body and lead to infertility."

Chlamydia is caused by chlamydia trachomatis, a bacteria found in the semen of men and vaginal fluids of women who have the infection. It is easily passed from one per-

son to another through unprotected sex.

Genital chlamydia is now the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK, being most likely to affect men and women under the age of 25.

Trust official Vanessa Lowe said: "Chlamydia is so easy to treat and we urge young men and women to be tested. The tests are non-invasive using either a simple swab or urine sample. It's quick and painless and is treated with just one short course of antibiotics.

"We would always advise young people to delay sex until they are older and absolutely sure they can take on the responsibility and consequences of sexual disease or pregnancy. Sexually active youngsters should be tested regularly.

"Specialist clinics have evolved over the past two years and we now have two full-time nurses who run outreach sessions across the region.

"The service offers free and confidential advice and tests on sexual health, pregnancy and contraception."

Clinic locations include the Sheerness Healthy Living Centre, Sheppey Community Hospital and Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital.

To find a clinic near you or talk to an advisor about sexual health, call the NHS sexual health helpline in confidence on 0845 122 8690.

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Wireless 'Avatar' technology opens up new medical world

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

TECHNOLOGY used to make triple-Oscar winning 3D film Avatar is being used by a university to research groundbreaking ways of allowing sick children to leave behind life-saving monitoring equipment.

The hi-tech movie approach is being used by researchers at the School of Engineering and Digital Arts at the University of Kent.

It has snapped up a motion capture system and scanner to research how wireless devices actually work.

Most of us know the concept of a wireless device thanks to our wide use of mobile phones and laptops. But we also know how annoying it is when we lose the signal.

What this new equipment will hopefully do is allow the development of machines and sensors that don't drop their signals.

Once that's done, they could be used in hospitals to free patients 'tied' to vital monitoring machines.



REAL LIFE: Student Alan Yang in motion capture suit



NEW WORLD: James Cameron's 3D blockbuster Avatar used motion capture technology to create stunning visuals

They could even be used in people's homes.

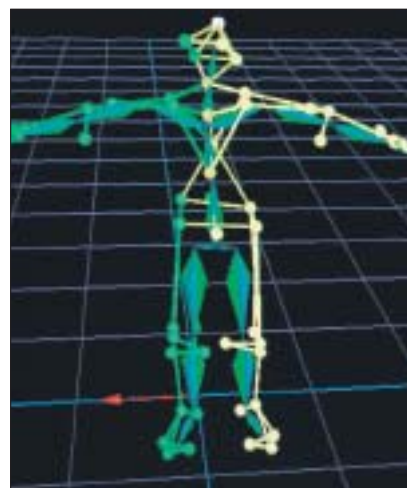
This new project is being run with Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London.

Dr John Batchelor is a senior lecturer in electronic engineering at the University of Kent. He realised a wireless system would allow youngsters in hospital who are wired to various machines more freedom to get up and play.

But wireless is prone to losing connection, just like a mobile phone. But if this happened while a child was hooked up wirelessly to something like a heart monitoring machine and lost connection during a heart attack, the results could be fatal.

So using a £500,000 grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Dr Batchelor bought a VICON infrared motion capture system and a 3D laser Anthroscan scanner which produces 3D image of an entire person in a few seconds. It's one of just two in the UK.

Using the big budget movie quality system, he will be able to monitor exactly how wireless



ON SCREEN: Human figure captured in computer model



GREEN SCREEN: Student's movements are captured

radio waves 'wrap' around a person or object. His team will be able to help design a new breed of devices that can 'see' each other all the time, no matter what obstacles are placed between the sender and receiver.

The data will be used to animate 3D scans of their bodies. It is these 'avatars', or computer-animated characters, that will allow the team to analyse radio waves 'creeping' around the body and from this ascertain the implications for power and battery management on wireless devices.

Dr Batchelor said: "Currently, children undergoing lengthy observations in hospitals may be tethered by cables and wires for long periods. When I heard about this, I thought there had to be a way to free them and other patients from their attachment to machines."

"By extension, new methods must also now be found to allow ill and ageing people to stay in their own homes, where many of them would prefer to be."



ACTION POSE: Scanned avatar performs a karate kick

AUSTRALIAN heart-throb Jason Donovan made a flying visit to Bluewater last week.

And he admitted he's never worked harder in his long career as he prepares for another musical, the release of a new album and hosting a weekly top radio show.

The 41-year-old, who made his name in hit soap Neighbours before embarking on a remarkable career which saw him top the charts with a string of singles and then tread the boards in West End musicals, was helping launch the latest Australian travel brochure for travel firm Kuoni.

Hundreds of fans queued up to get a glimpse of the star, who chatted and signed autographs.

Donovan presents a regular Sunday night show on Heart – previously Invicta FM – and was joined at Bluewater by drivetime host Neil Kefford.

It was the start of a long day for the star. He is currently appearing in the musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert in London and is already starting rehearsals for his role in the touring version of Jeff Wayne's The War Of The Worlds. It takes in a host of arena dates later this year and next – including a show at the O2 Arena in Greenwich.

Speaking exclusively to this newspaper, Donovan revealed what he believes is the

Stars in her eyes as our Anna meets Aussie actor Donovan



HELLO THERE: Yourmaidstone reporter Anna White and Tunbridge Wells on Sunday editor Chris Britcher fulfil an ambition by meeting Australian actor, singer and DJ Jason Donovan

secret to a career which has now stretched over 20 years in the limelight.

He explained: "One could argue you need to



have a little bit of talent to last this long. But you need a lot of luck along the way, and I work very hard. I don't finish work today, for

example, until 11.30pm.

"The essence of it is a love for the craft of singing, acting and performing. I still love that side of it. It's a lot of hard work and a highly pressured job."

"I cope with that thanks to a great family."

And he enjoys his trips to Kent when he gets the chance to visit from his west London home.

He said: "I've been here lots. I'd like to spend more quality time here, but my main base is London. I do have connections with Ashford through my family, but I haven't spent much time there."

Mr Donovan rose to fame as Scott Robinson in Neighbours with his on-screen relationship with Kylie Minogue developing off it too.

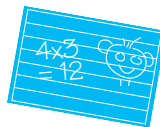
After securing three number one hits in the late 1980s, his career nose-dived after he successfully sued The Face magazine after they suggested he was gay.

He was tagged homophobic – a claim he has always denied – and later admitted taking the court action was one of the biggest mistakes of his life.

In the mid-1990s he suffered an addiction to cocaine and cannabis. He has been clean for ten years and found fame more recently when he starred in ITV1's I'm a Celebrity.

He releases a new album in September.

Picture: ANNA WHITE



BREAK TIME

Developing a taste for Fairtrade drinks



YOUNG and old united to celebrate Fairtrade fortnight when pupils from Sittingbourne organised a coffee morning at an Age Concern centre.

Youngsters from Fulston Manor recently established a Fairtrade cooperative at the school and organised the event to raise awareness. At the centre, pupils gave a short explanation about what Fairtrade means to farmers in developing countries, before serving tea and coffee.

Spokeswoman Sarah Palmer said: "This was the first community visit for the youngsters and they did themselves proud."

Fairtrade fortnight is an annual event which promotes fair and ethical trading values. Find out more at fairtrade.org.uk.

Skills fair reminder

SECONDARY school children in Swale are reminded about the first ever skills and careers event to be held in the district tomorrow (Thursday).

Over 100 companies and education providers are lined up to discuss jobs, further education and training programmes.

The event will be in Woodstock Club at Kent Science Park. Call 01795 417850 or visit www.swale.gov.uk to find out more.

Show's display of talent worthy of the West End

■ BY JILL HURST



WINNING SMILE: Singer India Gilby took overall first place at the talent show

BUDDING starlets travelled from all corners of the district to take part in the final round of a talent show for school children.

Hosted by The Sittingbourne Community College (SCC), the annual event proved too attractive to miss for both performers and spectators and the performance hall was crammed to the rafters.

The show opened with a spectacular 3D film created by director Chris McKenna and followed with acts from every corner of the arts including singing, acting, dancing and even a circus act.

Performers reported a tense and nervous backstage atmosphere as they waited for the final decision. But they didn't have too long to wait with a dance troupe from Teynham school taking gold for the junior section and SCC students Adam Ives and Harvey Short scooping first place in the intermediate section for their circus act.

First place in the senior section went to acting and singing duo Chelsea Wright and Blake Bean with the coveted overall first place going to singer India Gilby of Fulston Manor.

Other prizes awarded during the evening included best costume which went to Charlie Rich, head girl Rebecca Stock and Trudy Kirabo.

Headteacher Alan Barham said: "It was fantastic to see such a range of abilities at such a high standard. It proves the level of talent in Swale and at Sittingbourne Community College we pride ourselves on developing and nurturing such creative and expressive abilities within students."

"The talent show is a fantastic opportunity for youngsters to gain experience and confidence and is something they can take with them into future education or careers."

Show director Chris McKenna said: "The evening was fun and filled with entertainment. It was great to see so many talented performers from the area."

"With the help of local lighting company NK Audio, we were able to produce a professional and highly technical stage that allowed the performers to gain a true West End-style experience."

To order a DVD of the show or to find out more about Sittingbourne Community College, call 01795 472 449 or email www.sittingbourne.ac.uk.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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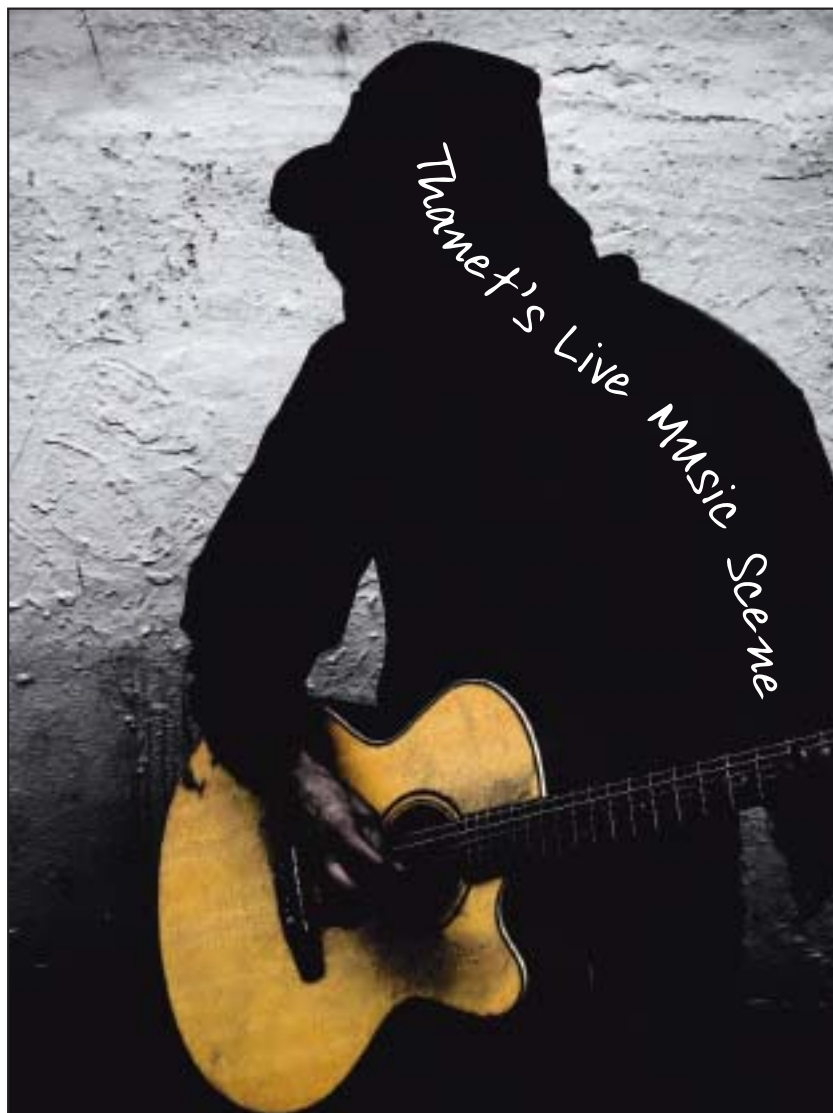
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Saturday 3rd April

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YOUR LETTERS



Creativity stifled by lack of information

What a shame our own artists have been forced to go elsewhere for an audience.

It is ironic that an exhibition intended to celebrate artistic talent in the borough garners so little interest locally.

I am as bad as the next person for not supporting local artists but, in my defence, I'm not really sure where I can find out about exhibitions such as this.

Kevin Horne, Sittingbourne



Lenient sentence is hardly a deterrent

I've been following the dog killer story from your paper last week and I've just seen on the web how short the sentence Dance got is.

It's hard to believe that someone capable of this much unthinking cruelty can basically get away with it like that. A six month curfew? Only a ten-year ban? He should have gone to prison, and should never be allowed near any other animal ever again.

I had to write in and express how disgusted I am at the brevity of this sentence.

By email, name and address withheld

Pension reforms to help you plan ahead

With just weeks to go until landmark changes to the state pension, residents in Kent are being urged to plan ahead.

Due to major reforms this April, 60,000 more people reaching state pension age in 2010 will get a full basic state pension.

Women reaching state pension age – and there 44,500 women who are aged 55 to 59 in Kent – are the biggest winners.

Nationally, some 40,000 more women are due the full amount because of changes like the reduction in qualifying years from 39 to 30. The years men need will also be slashed from 44 to 30, helping 20,000 more get the full

your blogger

Gary Wright puts his weight behind a 'fat tax' being issued by airlines on obese passengers...



FAT people are set to face a cash penalty when they travel as profit-hungry airlines try to cram more people onto flights.

Most of us may agree, but this week tall people came out in support of the overweight.

I fail to see the link. One group of people are unfairly penalised because they have ridiculously long legs and need more space. Not their fault, just genes. The other group have made a lifestyle choice that means they take up two seats... that's just greedy and inconsiderate to fellow travellers.

Charging porkies more makes sense to me and to the 76 per cent of people who were in favour of a 'Fat Tax' according to travel search website Skyscanner.net.

Cry discrimination all you want, but larders who don't fit standard airline seats should be prepared for heavier ticket prices.

Anyone who has suffered long flights with the person in the next seat flowing over the armrest knows it makes sense. If you choose to pack more than the luggage allowance, you pay more, so I the same rule should apply to excess bingo wings.

But the lure of cheap Sangria and a Mediterranean fry up mean that fatties are not going to roll over and take it (they probably can't).

Lanky Simon James, a 6ft 5ins man from Edinburgh warned that airlines already discriminate against the tall.

He said: "Everyone's talking about 'fat tax', but 'tall tax' has been around for years. I always request an exit row seat, but there's no guarantee you'll get one. On many budget carriers, I have to pay for the privilege of choosing a seat or boarding first."

Yet in the next breath he seemed to be sticking the same boot in the fleshy behind of fatties as everyone else.

Simon said: "I have sympathy for overweight people, but at least the vast majority of them can lose weight if they choose. Tall people can't get any shorter. People come in all shapes and sizes, and airlines should accommodate us all."

Nice one. "The vast majority of them can lose weight..."

Many airlines charge a premium for seats with extra leg room, for example Qantas charges an additional \$160 on some flights for an exit aisle seat.

Kevin Smith, famed American film director and actor, was the latest passenger to get involved in the airline 'fat tax' row after he was ejected from a Southwest Airlines flight after his bulk was deemed a 'safety risk'.

If he was between me and the aisle, I'd agree too.

Airlines should just get on with it, fit some bigger seats and charge according to weight and waist measurement.

Of course, there could be a sliding discount: Fat mum sitting between her two kids will still be three seats, she can overflow and they'll be used to the smell.

If you want to save cash flying? Lose a few pounds... well stone.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, Gareth Arnold, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Canterbury blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

payout. But in the South East over half (51 per cent) of people approaching retirement admit they have done nothing to plan for their retirement.

A poll by Ipsos MORI shows that of the over-50s in the South East questioned who have looked into their retirement options, just 64 per cent checked how much state pension they will get.

Over a third approaching retirement, 38 per cent, say they haven't even discussed their plans with their partner. To mark the countdown to the pension changes, the Department for Work and Pensions is calling on people approaching retirement to find out the facts.

We are changing the state pension to make it fairer and more generous, so more people are able to build up the full amount.

These days most of us can expect to spend at least 20 years in retirement, so it is important that people understand how these changes affect them and plan ahead so they can get the most out of later life.

To help the younger generations build up a firm foundation for later life, a new National Insurance credit will allow parents and carers to accrue a full basic state pension.

For the first time it will be possible for a carer to do this entirely with credits. To ensure the system is sustainable for the future, the state pension age for women will gradually rise from 60 to 65 to match men. In the past, millions of

women who chose to stay home and care for family and children have missed out on pension cash in retirement.

Next month this will change. The system will be fairer for women and carers. Nine out of ten women will be able to build up a full basic pension in their own right. The Department for Work and Pensions is encouraging people to visit www.direct.gov.uk/pensions or call 0800 678 1132 for more information on planning for later life.

Angela Eagle, Minister of State for Pensions and Ageing Society

Commons to hear of rail dissatisfaction

I have secured Commons time for an adjournment debate to place on the record growing concerns over the new timetable and service imposed by the Department of Transport on the Kent coast, the Medway towns, and Faversham railway line.

The debate chimes with two petitions on the Downing Street website that have already received more than 1,000 signatures and which are attracting growing support. The level of dissatisfaction with the performance of Southeastern, the failure of the high-speed trains to serve the needs of east Kent and the arrogant failure of the Secretary of State to properly address the concerns of the travelling public



make this debate essential. We have to get a minister to the despatch box to correct statements that have been made and to properly answer the very many questions that have so far been avoided. This adjournment debate creates the opportunity for us to nail some of the fictions about the length of journey times and the costs of so-called "high-speed" travel for passengers from east Kent, and to call for improvements.

Roger Gale, MP for North Thanet

Commuters are so frustrated by trains

If Southeastern and the Department for Transport listened to customers they would appreciate the frustrations we all share on a daily basis simply trying to get to work.

Late trains, dirty carriages, short trains and skipping stations are just some of the issues we face every day. Never mind the fact we cannot claim compensation as annual season ticket holders.

The sheer volume of signatories on the Downing Street petition is testament to the feelings of the public and cannot be written off.

John Nicholson, Herne Bay

'Robin Hood tax' can tackle child poverty

More than 600,000 UK children could be lifted out of poverty this year by the introduction of a 'Robin Hood' tax on big banks. This would mean the Government would meet its target to halve child poverty by 2010. The Robin Hood tax is a tiny charge of 0.05 per cent that would be levied on massive deals done daily by global financial institutions – the big banks blamed for the economic crisis – not on high street banks.

There are 2.3 million children living in poverty in the UK. Severe child poverty actually increased by more than a quarter of a million in the four boom years before the recession hit in 2008, and now totals 1.7 million. Save the Children is calling on politicians from all parties to back the tax and make tackling poverty an urgent priority. The Robin Hood tax is so tiny it would make no difference to the banks. However the proceeds would utterly transform thousands of lives of stifled by poverty.

Our campaign is backed by celebrities including Bill Nighy and 'Frank' from Shameless – aka Save the Children ambassador David Threlfall.

The Robin Hood tax now has more Facebook fans than all the political parties put together.

The tax could raise as much as £250 billion every year. It would only cost £4 billion to lift 600,000 children out of poverty this year.

Fergus Drake, Save the Children

Life-savers on board

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECAmb) board members supported National Heart Month in February by refreshing their life-saving cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills.

National Heart Month is an annual campaign organised by the British Heart Foundation.

While some members of SECAmb's board are trained paramedics, including chief executive Paul Sutton, the refresher training, provided by Mike Dadd, equipped non-clinical members with the skills needed in the event of a life-threatening emergency, including the use of a public access defibrillator.

Mike is one of 21 trainers working across the country as part of the BHF's Heartstart scheme – an initiative which aims to teach as many people as possible, through schools, community groups and workplaces, the simple skills needed in a life-threatening emergency.

We want all our board members to become familiar with modern CPR techniques and defibrillators. It's particularly important that children are taught CPR, because they'll remember these skills later in life.

Chairman, Martin Kitchen

WWII fighter pilot recalls time turban saved his life

■ BY NICK AMES

AS THE 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain approaches, a Sikh fighter pilot has told how his life was saved by the padding in his turban after he was forced to crash-land his aircraft near Dover.

Squadron Leader Mohinder Singh Pujji, one of the few Indian ace flyers in the RAF, crashed-landed after his plane was badly damaged in a mid-air skirmish.

But he managed to get his Hurricane down in one piece and the young flyer crash-landed near the White Cliffs of Dover, where rescuers pulled him from the wreckage, suffering from a bad head injury.

Sqdn Ldr Pujji, now 91, said his specially-adapted turban headgear – a requisite of his religion – even had his RAF wings sewn onto it. The turban acted as a cushion during the crash-landing, almost certainly preventing the young flyer's death.

He told of his daring wartime exploits ahead of the publication of his memoirs – *For King And Another Country* – later this year.

The RAF ace said: "The padding of my turban saved me. It was full of blood. I was taken to hospital, but after seven days was back to flying again.

"In the fight a German bullet smashed into my dashboard and all my instruments were



SHOT: Sqdn Ldr Pujji took part in the Battle of Britain

gone. I radioed for directions back to the nearest landing strip. I could see the English Channel beneath – I really didn't want to bail out. I could see the White Cliffs and thought I would make it – then the landing strip appeared, with fire engines around it.

"But as I put my landing gear down, fire took hold of the plane. Blood was pouring from my head, but the six feet of wound cloth of my turban saved me from worse impact injuries. People say, 'you claim this as you are a religious man', but I really think it was the case. The aircraft was a total wreck."

Sqdn Ldr Pujji's turban was fitted so the earphones could go over the top – and he even carried a spare in his cockpit.

He said: "The Nazis created havoc. That's why I felt I was fighting a just cause. I knew why war broke out and who Hitler was.

"Britain went to war to save Europe and I went to war for Britain. I saw the people here and had admiration for them."

Sqdn Ldr Pujji is surrounded by wartime memorabilia at his home in Gravesend.

He signed up for military duty after responding to an advert declaring: 'Pilots needed for RAF' in an Indian newspaper.

After learning to fly in 1937, he was one of only eight pilots from the Empire colony deemed good enough for fighter duties.

Arriving in August, 1940, at the height of the Battle of Britain, the young officer flew countless missions against the Luftwaffe as they flew sorties across southern England.

He had another lucky escape when he was shot down by ground fire from Rommel's Afrika Korps in the western desert.

He said: "I didn't know what to do. I sat on top of my plane and after a while saw a cloud of dust. I didn't mind who was picking me up, Germany or Britain. I started waving my shirt and luckily it was the British."

In all Sqdn Ldr Pujji saw action in five theatres of war – Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Palestine and Asia. He is the only man to hold that distinction.

After the war he resumed his career with Shell Oil before running an aerodrome for the Indian government.

Sqdn Ldr Pujji, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery, made headlines last year after campaigning against the BNP. He was angered by party leader Nick Griffin's use of the wartime Spitfire to symbolise Britishness.

New credit union launched to tackle loan sharks threat

A COUNTYWIDE credit union providing a safer alternative to loan sharks has finally been launched more than four months later than originally forecast.

Kent Savers has been ready to begin trading since the end of October, but has only just been given the green light by the Financial Services Authority, which has been accused of being overly cautious in the wake of the recession.

The union – which is a non-profit making body offering loans of between £500-5,000 – was officially launched at the Little Pebbles children's centre in Gravesend, last week.

Chief officer John Fowler said the location was specifically chosen to show families on low incomes that there is an alternative to borrowing money from loan sharks.

Earlier this year Kent Trading Standards revealed it had failed to secure a single loan shark conviction in the previous 12 months, blaming it on borrowers being too scared to come forward and give evidence.

Such lenders often charge exorbitant interest rates but the new credit union – which operates out of Gravesend's Old Town Hall, but is accessible throughout the county – offers a fixed rate interest of 27 per cent.

The union is targeted at residents who cannot guarantee earnings or have no equity, and has been set up at a cost of £750,000.

A third of that figure was supplied by Kent County Council.

Residents will be able to access the Kent Savers union at one of the county's seven Gateways – in Ashford, Dover, Maidstone, Tenterden, Margate, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Visit www.kentsavers.co.uk or call 0300 456 9990 for more information.

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Stars join forces in real-life story of father who saved his kids' lives

■ BY KATE WHITING

THE hardest thing for any parent is to see their children suffer.

John Crowley and his wife Aileen were devastated when they learned that two of their three children suffered from Pompe disease, a rare genetic illness that would kill them.

Rather than give in to despair, they made a pact: Aileen would look after the children and John would quit his job as a financial consultant to find a cure.

With no experience in medicine, John met scientists and researchers, raised millions of dollars and set up his own pharmaceutical company to produce an enzyme that would help his children.

Harrison Ford read an article about the Crowleys in the Wall Street Journal and the film is based on Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Geeta Anand's book *The Cure: How A Father Raised \$100 Million – And Bucked The Medical Establishment – In A Quest To Save His Children*.

"I thought Geeta's book had something to say about personal courage, initiative, parents' love and the power to overcome extraordinarily difficult circumstances," says Ford.

Ford, also an executive producer on the film, chose Crash star Brendan Fraser to play John Crowley.

While the film compresses six years of strife into just 100 minutes, and the myriad scientists who helped Crowley are represented by one fictional character, Dr Robert Stonehill (Ford), the real-life story of Crowley's efforts is much more complicated.

Once he'd set up his biotech company and developed an enzyme that showed potential, Crowley sold his firm to Genzyme Corp for more than \$100m so the larger company could get the drug tested and into production.

But his children Megan, then five, and his youngest son Patrick were deemed too old to be tested in the first round of trials. As they got steadily weaker Crowley tried everything to



WORKING TOGETHER: Harrison Ford and Brendan Fraser as Dr Robert Stonehill and John Crowley

get them on to the drug.

He secretly approached a hospital about conducting a 'sibling trial', which would show how children responded differently to treatment.

But when Genzyme found out, they refused to deliver the drug for the trial because Crowley worked for the company.

Brendan Fraser, 41, who has three sons, says he understood how John Crowley felt.

"When you're a parent you can't deny the instinct to do whatever you can to ensure your children's health and wellbeing and, in this case, to see that they stay alive.

"It's poignant that Crowley took a great deal

of satisfaction in telling his daughter that she gets a shot at being an old lady.

"Before, this heart-breaking disease took the lives of kids who usually didn't make it past the age of eight. But through the efforts of John and this team of scientists, doctors, researchers and investors that he galvanised around him, he saved his kids' lives."

Fraser admits he felt an "obligation to embody who John is" on screen, both his stoicism and his humanity.

"He is one of the most principled individuals I've ever met," he says. "But at the same time I had to allow him to be someone who the

audience can identify with, not just a superhero dad."

Both actors admit the experience has made them value their own children more. Ford, who has five children and three grandchildren, believes parenting improves with age.

"There's nothing like the company of young kids to keep you on your toes and remind you of the pleasure of learning. It's exciting to be around them."

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NEWS BUBBLE: David Mitchell feeds celebrities real and concocted stories



YOUR TV REVIEW

THE BUBBLE: BBC2 10pm, Friday
FILM 2010 WITH JONATHAN ROSS: BBC1, 11.35pm Tuesday

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

THE world didn't really need another panel-based show.

We have *Mock the Week*, 8 out of 10 *Cats*, *Buzzcocks* and a load more, which I've either missed or am too lazy to list.

But with *The Bubble*, the BBC has at least deviated somewhat from the well-worn, and often boring route.

Presented by David Mitchell, who, for me is one of the most original comedy thinkers in the country, the show sees three celebrities voluntarily step into a "news bubble" for a few days.

This involves cutting themselves off from the stories that are filling the newspapers, internet and TV.

Mitchell then feeds them stories, most of which are totally made up, to sift through and decide which are real and which are piffle.

It's a little like *Call My Bluff*,

minus the blue-rinsed duffers, and is actually pretty good.

It's amazing to see the stories that the guests deem to be real, but the world is a crazy place and it just goes to show that you never quite know what bizarre stories will crop up.

WHEN Jonathan Ross walks away from the BBC it will leave a gaping hole in its radio and TV schedules.

Personally I think it's a good thing that his Friday night chat beast is laying down to die.

This is not America, where the chat show is king and hosts such as Leno and Letterman sit in their chairs for decades on end.

It seems to have run its course here and Ross talked more about himself

than the guests anyway, which kind of defeats the point.

However, Wossy as host of the *Film...* series, once the kingdom of Barry "and why not" Norman, is a much better broadcaster.

He knows his stuff, and has never been afraid to speak his mind, which must be a tricky task when many of the stars of the latest films turn up on his chat show.

I hope the Beeb will continue this show, which is something of an institution, running as it has since 1971. Ross's knowledge of quirky cinema will especially be missed, as will the short *Inside Hollywood* features, praised by film fans.

An ideal replacement for Ross would be Mark Kermode, probably the nation's best known film critic, but whether he could pull it off is another matter.



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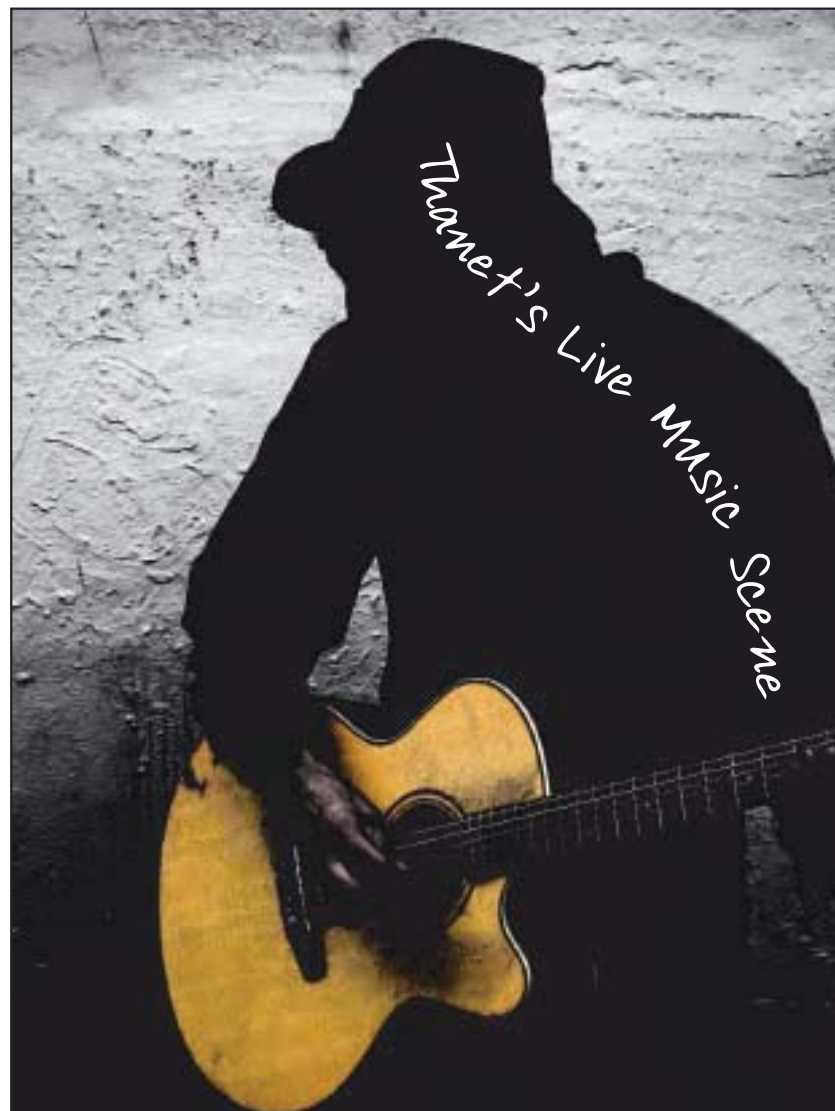
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LIVE & LOCAL

Share time of your life

LOCAL people share their experiences of being a teen in Margate in the new exhibition, Time of Our Lives.

The public were invited to take part in sessions, in which they explored their different memories. The result can be seen at Droit House in Margate until March 28. Visit www.turnercontemporary.org or call 01843 280261 for details.

Drop in with a story

MEMORIES, stories and historic material about Buckland Mill are being collected for a new documentary.

Dover Arts Development is opening a temporary 'story shop' at 15 Bench Street from Tuesday to next Saturday.

To find out more email info@dadon-line.eu or call 07512 309747 and leave a message.

Treat mum to a cuppa

TREAT your mum to a slice of cake at one of England's most iconic landmarks this Mother's Day.

On Saturday and Mothering Sunday the White Cliffs of Dover coffee shop is offering a piece of cake and pot of tea or cup of coffee for just £2.75 per person.

To find out more call 01304 202756 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Film day to help heroes

PRIZES are on offer at the Vue Cinema at Westwood Cross on Saturday to mark the release of Green Zone.

To celebrate the Matt Damon film, the cinema is hosting a fund-raising day for Help for Heroes. There will be activities and prizes from noon to 4pm.

To find out more about the film visit www.myvue.com.

Dickens' life revealed

FIND out more about one of Britain's greatest literary figures at Gerald Dickens' acclaimed one-man show.

The great, great-grandson of Charles Dickens gives a special insight into the life of this iconic writer at Tenterden's Sinden Theatre at 7.30pm on Saturday and tickets cost £12.50, call 01580 763826 or visit www.sindentheatre.biz.

TV medium at large

MEDIUM Tony Stockwell will try to communicate with the spirit world in Herne Bay on Friday.

Stockwell, who has made many TV appearances, can be seen at the King's Hall in Herne Bay at 7.30pm and tickets cost £17.

Book at www.kingscaterers.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 373322.

Have fun at The Hook

FILM, live music and workshops can all be enjoyed at Quarterhouse as The Hook festival continues.

The Folkestone venue is hosting concerts by Guy Barker and Ian Shaw, Dogs, Dreadzone and more as part of The Hook, which runs until March 31.

For full listings visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk or call 01303 858500.

Sparkly tribute to King of Pop

WHO'S BAD

Wednesday, March 10
Winter Gardens, Margate



CELEBRATE the life and work of the King of Pop at the thrilling party show, Who's Bad.

Millions of fans were grief-stricken when Michael Jackson died last year, leaving a legacy of timeless pop songs that continue to fill dance floors to this day.

From his early days as a child prodigy with the Jackson Five to his phenomenally successful solo career, Who's Bad pays tribute to a global superstar and his extraordinary catalogue of work.

Billed as 'the ultimate tribute band', Who's Bad takes audiences on a musical journey through the legacy of this unforgettable artist. Complete with glittering gloves, sparkly jackets and authentic 80s regalia, the band comes direct from the US to rock its way through three decades of Jackson's spectacular career.

Jackson fans are sure to hear their favourite hits during the show as the band's song list includes Billie Jean, Can You Feel It, Earth Song, Man in the Mirror, Thriller, Smooth Criminal, Another Part of Me, Beat It, The Way You Make Me Feel, Don't Stop Til You Get Enough, Blame It on the Boogie and many more.

A much-loved though often controversial figure, Jackson began his career as the talented lead singer of the Jackson Five in the mid-60s. This astonishingly gifted, assured young performer won fans with his singing and dancing skills and the band achieved many hits. Alongside his brothers, Jackson became a huge star, but it was later claimed that he had a troubled relationship with his father.

Jackson's fifth solo album, *Off The Wall*, was produced by the legendary Quincy Jones and became a huge success, earning Jackson a number of high profile awards. But he was determined to improve on the album's success with his next release and he was as good as his word. In 1982 he released *Thriller*, which remains the best-selling album of all time.

By now Jackson was one of the most famous men in the world and had really earned his nickname, the King of Pop. His captivating moonwalk dance continues to be impersonated and his look, as well as his music, made him a cultural icon.

Alongside his phenomenal success in the 80s, his personal life became the subject of increasing tabloid scrutiny. The apparent fading of his skin colour and changing appearance prompted a number of outlandish stories, claiming he slept in an oxygen tank and bleached his skin.

His Neverland ranch became a place of retreat for the star, who built his own fairground and bought exotic animals, including a chimp called Bubbles. He was twice accused of

Who's Bad promise to deliver your favourite hits in their own tribute to Michael Jackson



LEGACY: Who's Bad are the 'ultimate tribute band'

child sex abuse, but the first case was settled out of court and Jackson was acquitted of all charges on the second occasion.

Jackson married twice – first to Lisa Marie Presley, though they divorced two years later and secondly to nurse Deborah Rowe, who gave birth to Jackson's first two children. The marriage lasted three years and Jackson retained full custody of his son and daughter. In 2002 he added a third child to his family, although the mother's identity was unknown.

Last year it was announced that London's O2 Arena would host a series of 50 comeback concerts and demand for tickets was enormous. But fans would be denied the chance to see Jackson perform live one last time – his death was announced on June 25, 2009.

The essence of Jackson's spirit was captured in Michael Jackson's *This Is It*, a documentary feature which showed rehearsal footage for the London concerts.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £18.50. Book online at www.margatewintergardens.co.uk or call the box office on 01843 292795/296111.

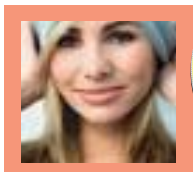


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WOMEN seeking men

ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH? Fun-to-be-with, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 52", enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5'8", medium-curve build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 890105

SOUND GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, ysgoh, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'13", slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5'8", short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

SIDE BY SIDE Active lady, 35, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes reading, swimming, walks, cinema, pubs, seeking a similar man, honest, and loving. Gillingham Box 466833

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 309734

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'3", shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wiring and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'4", medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440893

MAGIC IN MARGATE Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5'4", like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446884

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'8", slim/medium build, I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, W/LTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

FROM ME TO YOU Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106



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TLC ON OFFER Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, watching DVDs, wltm like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

CALL ME Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells, I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'0", dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5'9"-6'. Box 461129

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunet from Kent, 43, 5'10", likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 453048

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gsoh, looking for a man with no issues and gsoh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5'11", medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals, W/LTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182

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BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5'6", medium build, long dark hair/green eyes, enjoys cinema, eating out etc and W/LTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612

FIT THE BILL? Fit and healthy woman, average build. I'm 44, young looking and love animals. I would love to meet a sincere fella to spend time with. Maidstone. Box 466419

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459126

MUST MAKE ME LAUGH! Young mid 40's female, looking to meet a genuine single male for friendship and eventual long term relationship. Rochester. Box 855449

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

COME ON OVER Fun-loving gal, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Gillingham Box 854480

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5'8", attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre. W/LTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, fun and sexy. Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury Box 460999

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'4", slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'10", to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

ETERNALLY YOUNG Easygoing woman, likes most things in life, country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5'2", medium build, W/LTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

IT COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5'10", slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS? Professional, attractive 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5'4", tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460886

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5'4", animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

BY MY SIDE Curvy woman, 49, 5'10", enjoys being by the sea, music, walks, meals out, cinema, cross-words, and reading. Seeking kind, caring man in the Maidstone area. Box 466608

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5'15, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 883562

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 448524

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 5'1yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

MEANT TO BE? Very honest, reliable and trustworthy person, 52, 5'17, blonde with blue eyes, loves cinema, meals out and nights out, seeking sociable male with same interests. Ashford. Box 466150

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5'4", long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100

A HIGHER LOVE Looking for that special person, I'm a genuine lady, 54 but don't feel I'd like to meet someone to love and care for. Canterbury. Box 875551

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yourleisure

with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



DENNIS LOCORRIERE AND ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW

Monday, March 15. Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

MUSIC lovers can look forward to a double helping of talent when Dennis Locorriere and Andy Fairweather Low visit Folkestone.

The audience will enjoy two remarkable artists for the price of one on Monday. This inspired pairing is sure to provide an unforgettable evening.

Dennis Locorriere, pictured, will be familiar to people all over the world as the lead singer on all the great Dr Hook tracks, such as Sylvia's Mother, A Little Bit More and When You're In Love With A Beautiful Woman.

The band achieved more than 60 gold and platinum albums, but Locorriere is now a highly successful solo artist.

Andy Fairweather Low became famous as the lead singer of Amen Corner, but his fantastic guitar skills have been much in demand with the likes of Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix. He regularly tours with his own band.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £22.50/£20.50. Book at www.leascliffhall.org.uk or call 0844 847 1776.



ALL STARS BAND ANNUAL CHARITY CONCERT

Sunday, March 14. Winter Gardens, Margate

HURRY to secure your tickets for the All Stars Band's 21st Annual Charity Concert this weekend.

Just a few tickets remain for this wonderful event which features musicians from all over the UK and abroad. With a special guest conductor taking part, this year's concert promises to be even more captivating than ever.

After the bombing of the Deal barracks in which 11 young Royal Marines musicians died, the band was formed in 1990 to raise money for the new disaster fund. The success of the first concert led to the performances being continued as an annual event.

Most of the proceeds are donated to the Royal Marines Band Benevolent Fund and the Deal Memorial Bandstand Trust, with other charities also benefitting. Donations now total nearly £165,000.

The band's charismatic Director of Music, Captain David Cole, will be leading the band and this year's concert also features a guest conductor, Kenji Kawashima, pictured, of the Tokyo-based Rikutokai Ensemble.

Tickets cost £11/£10 and are available from Cinque Port Music on 01304 362181.



MURDER MOST HORRID

Sunday, March 14. Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

AMATEUR sleuths are invited to work out who-dunnit with comic mystery, Murder Most Horrid.

Set in a 50s holiday camp, the Perfectly Dreadful Murder Company's show features a hideous crime and the audience must try to identify the culprit before the end of the performance.

Things are in chaos at Butlitz Holiday Camp following the mysterious disappearance of the manager. Left in charge of the camp, his deputy is unable to keep on top of everything and his staff are also losing the plot. Dance teacher Edwardo is in urgent need of a new partner and the new children's entertainer appears to have a shady past.

Jane McDonut became a big star while singing on cruise ships, but now she is being sidelined by aspiring star Lucy Lastic, a chalet maid who spends a lot of time with the manager.

The show starts at 7pm and tickets cost £8 for members of the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club or £10 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. Call the box office on 0845 262 6263. Tickets can also be reserved by emailing info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.



TREMBLING BELLS

Friday, March 12. Orange Street Music Club, Canterbury

WITH praise from top industry figures ringing in their ears, Trembling Bells are a band to watch.

Veteran rocker Paul Weller and record producer Joe Boyd, who worked with Nick Drake, both rate the band highly and now Kent folk fans have the chance to find out why.

Following the release of their debut album, Carbeth, last year – which Weller chose as his favourite album of 2009 – the band visits Canterbury on its mission to 'reanimate the mythical landscapes of Great Britain'.

Combining their love of tradi-

tional folk, early music and canonical rock, they have been delighting critics and audiences. Some have drawn comparisons with such folk-rock pioneers as Richard Thompson and the Incredible String Band, predicting a bright future for these extremely promising musicians.

Support will be provided by local band Syd Arthur in an acoustic set.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £6 in advance (£8 on the door) from the club on 01227 760801 or from Canterbury's indoor market record stall on 01227 470328.



JAMES SHERLOCK

Friday, March 12. Town Hall, Deal

VERSATILE musician James Sherlock opens a new programme of Spring Chamber Concerts.

Deal Festival of Music and the Arts has revealed its new season of events, which begins with the pianist's welcome return and this time he will be joined by exciting young violinist Kokila Gillett.

Sherlock was a winner of the BBC's Fame Academy: The Next Generation in 2007 and won a gold medal in the Marcello Galanti International Organ Competition in 2005. Much in demand as both a performer and communicator, he also works regularly as a conductor and organist.

Gillett has performed at high profile venues such as the Wigmore Hall and the Royal Festival Hall, while her television appearances include live work and a documentary about Tchaikovsky. She recently reached the string finals of the Over-Seas Music Competition, a prestigious contest that recognises the best musicians.

The concert will feature works by Bartok, Franck, Messiaen, Poulenc, Enescu and Ravel. Tickets, priced at £10, are available from The Sound House in Deal on 01304 381134. Discounts are on offer if buying tickets for more than one concert.



yourtimeout

CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No128

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WATERSTONE'S

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 First two questioning priest about making witty remarks (8)
 6 Make known it hasn't been provided by end of May (6)
 9 Continue performing during the drama (4,2)
 10 Senior pupil starts yelling giving warning (8)
 11 Extremely clerical dean (4,8)
 13 Contest simply about nothing (5)
 14 24 hours for one side of Sheffield (9)
 17 Drafee, he could have been covered in plumage (9)
 19 Cheerless half of Dickens' work (5)
 21 Seat in Berkshire? (7,5)
 24 Some archaic handle restored by general dealer (8)
 25 Some cheap rewards before 1939 (3,3)
 26 Mate will finish after Friday (6)
 27 Taking leisurely walk to Erica outside day by day (8)

DOWN

- 2 Unattractive sort of customer? (4)
 3 Convenience call? (3,1,5)
 4 Holding five pairs above river (6)
 5 Compunction concerning code (7)
 6 It isn't happening to be a disappointing occurrence (3,5)
 7 T-tour arranged by teacher (5)
 8 By a considerable margin at a distance (3,3,4)
 12 Alluring invitation to approach (4,6)
 15 Thus left coming from cellar with something for converting sunlight into electrical power (5,4)
 16 Snake in the grass jerked back (8)
 18 Do not include Rex in selected passage (7)
 20 Went speedily having moved from channel to channel (6)
 22 See 23
 23 & 22 Steps on granary floor (4,5)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Vain boaster (8)
 6 Bent (6)
 9 Predicament (6)
 10 War memorial (8)
 11 Speechless (4,3,5)
 13 ___-diving (5)
 14 Numerousness (9)
 17 Nearness (9)
 19 Appreciate (5)
 21 Very (12)
 24 Fairly large (8)
 25 Malfunction (6)
 26 Sound of a hen (6)
 27 Albert ___, US physicist (8)

DOWN

- 2 Regulation (4)
 3 TV (slang) (6,3)
 4 Bear witness (6)
 5 Diplomatic (7)
 6 Perverse (8)
 7 Quotient (5)
 8 Trek (10)
 12 Scarlet fever (10)
 15 Wheeled boat (4,5)
 16 Email cab (anag.) (8)
 18 Colourless hydrocarbon (7)
 20 Mischievous child (6)
 22 Twitch (5)
 23 Je ne sais ___ (4)

YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT


AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A NARROW-minded authority figure is making life miserable. You're tired of hearing their sermons. Unfortunately, you're not in the position to tell them to shut up. Fortunately, a dynamic friend or business partner is poised to rescue you from this stifling situation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762


ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A CLOSE relationship is suffering because of your critical attitude. You need to be more encouraging, especially of your loved one's plans. Deep down inside, you may think this idea is doomed, but that's just because your pessimistic attitude has clouded your vision.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752


GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

IT'S hard to feel romantic when you're overwhelmed with responsibilities. If you're in a relationship, beware of neglecting your partner. The two of you need to go away together. You don't have to spend a lot of money to enjoy yourself, but you should choose a destination with privacy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754


LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

NEGATIVE thinking is driving opportunity from your door. Stop assuming the deck is stacked against you. If you encounter a cloud, look for its silver lining. A down in the dumps workmate makes your job difficult. Maybe you should just start work without asking them.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756


LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT'S hard to know who to trust these days. You're tired of being crossed by an opportunist. Keeping your own counsel is safe, but not satisfying. You're the type who wants to share your life with someone special. Unfortunately, family life feels unstable.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758


SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

IT FEELS like a friend has an ulterior motive for being so kind. Trust your instincts; they won't steer you wrong. Writing your pal a letter of recommendation will backfire. You can't afford to risk your reputation on an irresponsible character like this.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760


PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

A HEAVY tax burden forces you to change the way you earn, save and spend money. If you're out of your depth with this situation consult a money manager. An exclusive club is getting a little burdensome. You're tired of adhering to oppressive rules and regulations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763


TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU don't have the energy you normally do. On the plus side, your family is poised to relieve you of some exhausting chores. Don't look this gift horse in the mouth. An overbearing supervisor thinks you're trying to shirk your duties. Keep a low profile and try to stay out of their way.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753


CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU feel pretty reclusive, seeking to avoid the pressures of public life. Unfortunately, burying your head in the sand won't solve your problems. This will only compound them. Confront the person who has been pushing you around. You're tired of being treated this way.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755


VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

SELFISHNESS is driving a wedge between you and a loved one. You feel like your friend throws your hard-earned money down the drain. Maybe the best way around your problems is to have separate accounts. Then the rest of your money can be spent in a discretionary fashion.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757


SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

A LARGE institution makes it difficult for you to do what you please. For the time being, you need to play by some pretty strict rules. It won't be possible to find a new job in this economy, so you'll just have to grin and bear it. Fortunately, your boss is thinking about giving you a raise.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759


CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

THE job security you crave is elusive. No matter how hard you try, you just can't seem to break through the glass ceiling. Part of the problem is an attitude of entitlement. Just because you have a lot of training and experience doesn't mean you are a shoo-in for a particular position.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No127

ACROSS: 1 Photograph 7 Jive 9 Spritzer 10 Recent 11 Lucky charm 14 Accident 15 Parity 16 Quasar 18 Subdepot 20 Profession 23 Indigo 24 Denarius 25 Here 26 Down-at-heel. **DOWN:** 2 Hope 3 Twig 4 Gazelle 5 Apricot 6 Hurry up 7 Jack Horner 8 Veneration 12 Occurrence 13 Kiss of life 17 Respond 18 Skiddaw 19 Bonanza 21 Arch 22 Luxe.

QUICK SOLUTION No128

ACROSS: 1 Brigat 6 Curved 9 Plight 10 Cenotaph 11 Lost for words 13 Scuba 14 Plurality 17 Proximity 19 Enjoy 21 Particularly 24 Sizeable 25 Hiccup 26 Cackle 27 Contrary 7 Ratio 8 Expedition 12 Scarlatina 15 Land-yacht 16 Amicable 18 Toluene 20 Urrich 22 Tweak 23 Quol.

EASY

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5	7	6	2	8	1	4	3	9
1	2	3	9	4	7	6	8	5
8	4	9	6	5	3	2	1	7

HARD

1	8	2	3	5	7	4	6	9
3	4	9	2	6	1	7	8	5
7	5	6	4	9	8	3	2	1
4	9	7	8	3	6	1	5	2
8	6	3	5	1	2	9	7	4
5	2	1	9	7	4	8	3	6
6	7	5	1	8	9	2	4	3
2	1	8	6	4	3	5	9	7
9	3	4	7	2	5	6	1	8

yourstyle


BOOTS

Burt's Bees Head to Toe Starter Kit, price £16.49


BOOTS

Fenjal Classic Crème Bath, price £10.55

Mum's the word

Show you care on Mother's Day

THE FRAGRANCE SHOP

DKNY Be Delicious Gift Set, price £24.99


MARKS & SPENCERS

Wrapped chocolates, price £8.99


JOHN LEWIS

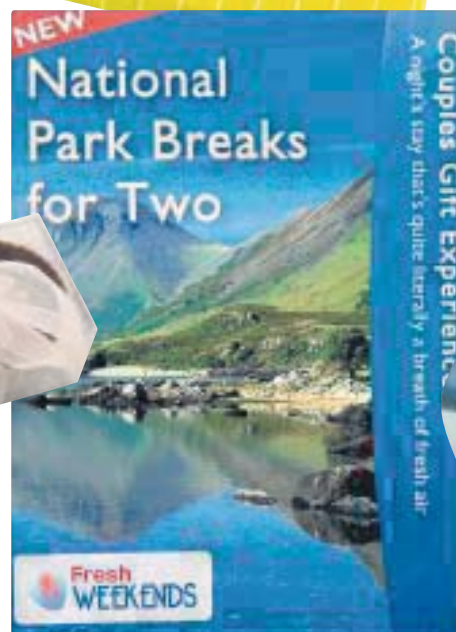
Mother's Day gingerbread, price £2.50


THE FRAGRANCE SHOP

Femme de Lacoste, price £22.50


BOOTS

National Parks Break for Two, price £89


JOHN LEWIS

Mother's Day chocolate cups, price £4

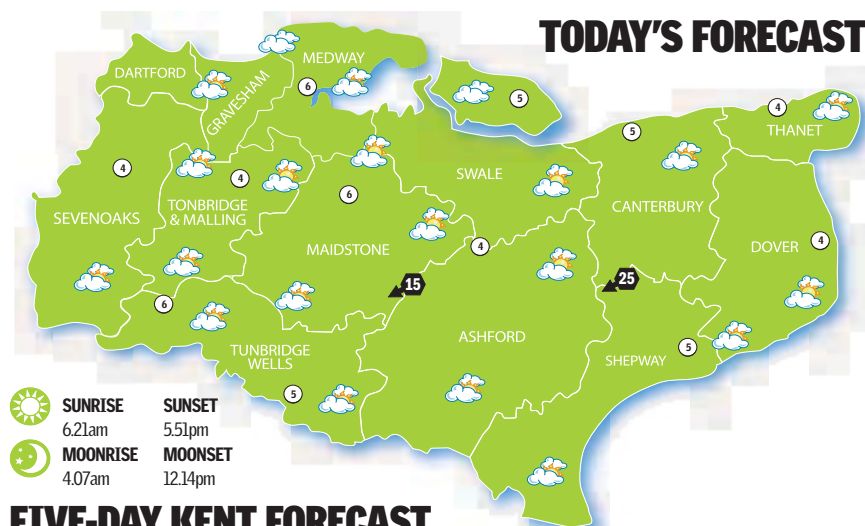


yourweather

WEATHER UPDATES 24 HOURS A DAY @ www.kentnews.co.uk



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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11:38am	5.5m
	Sunday	12:14pm	5.7m
Dover	Saturday	9:59am	5.9m
	Sunday	10:32am	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:44am	6.6m
	Sunday	10:24am	6.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:29am	4.5m
	Sunday	11:02am	4.6m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:27am	5.3m
	Sunday	12:04pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:42am	4.9m
	Sunday	12:17pm	5.0m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	4°C	Madrid	4°C
Athens	11°C	New York	10°C
Barcelona	1°C	Paris	4°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	11°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	29°C
Cape Town	36°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	4°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	17°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	16°C	Warsaw	-1°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	18°C



REFITTED: The Allington Belle returns on Mother's Day

Mum's the word when the Belle is relaunched

PUSH the boat out for a fantastic Mother's Day treat at Maidstone's family attraction, Kent Life.

As spring finally arrives, the popular Allington Belle boat makes a welcome return on Sunday to give visitors a wonderful trip on the water. Over the winter, the boat underwent a well-deserved refit.

Taking a trip along the river will add an extra touch of magic to a day out at Kent Life, where visitors can learn about the county's fascinating farming heritage in a fun, informal way. Return boat trips depart hourly from 11am, weather permitting, and tickets cost £5/£4 for adults or £2 for children.

Learn more about the countryside and its residents by following the new wildlife discovery trail that gives an insight into the natural life of the area.

There are also opportunities to learn about period homes that can be seen at Kent Life, as John Howard will be offering guided tours from 11.30am, subject to demand.

With lots of animals such as horses, pigs, goats, donkeys and sheep to meet, Kent Life is offering fantastic family entertainment for Mother's Day.

Admission starts at £3 for children (under-threes get in for free). For more information visit www.kentlife.org.uk or call 01622 763936.

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C	Gravesend	7°C	6°C	7°C	9°C	9°C
Canterbury	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	7°C	Maidstone	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C
Chatham	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C	Ramsgate	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	7°C
Dartford	7°C	6°C	7°C	9°C	9°C	Rochester	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C
Dover	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C
Faversham	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C
Folkestone	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	Tonbridge	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C
Gillingham	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C	Tun Wells	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C

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EVENTS

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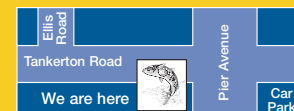
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fish & chips! Children's menu*

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Sat	9.00am - 8.00pm
Sun	10.00am - 4.00pm

TAKE-AWAY OPENING TIMES

Mon-Fri	11:15am - 2:15pm 4:00pm - 9:30pm
Sat	11:15am - 9:00pm
Sun	12noon - 9:00pm



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yourcompetition

WIN! £500 shopping spree in WHITEFRIARS Canterbury

IS yours a mum in a million?

Here's your chance to make Mother's Day extra special this year for your mum in a million! We've teamed up with Canterbury's award-winning Whitefriars shopping centre to offer one lucky mum the chance to splash out £500 on herself!

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Need a new wardrobe? Then check out the latest spring ranges from top high street names such as Zara, Phase Eight, Karen Millen, Coast or Hobbs.

Feeling indulgent? Then go for some stunning new jewellery from Beaverbrooks, Mappin & Webb, Goldsmiths, H Samuel or Ernest Jones.

Give your home a spring makeover with furniture and homewares from Fenwick, Next or Bhs.

Boost your home entertainment collection with all the latest titles from HMV or pick up the latest piece of Apple kit from Stormfront. The choice is yours!


For a chance of winning this fabulous prize, simply answer the following question on the voucher and send to Marketing Dept Whitefriars Comp, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Question: How many leading brands are there in Whitefriars Canterbury?

Closing date for receipt of entries is March 19, 2010.

Rules

1. No purchase necessary.
2. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.
3. The prize is £500 of vouchers to spend in participating Whitefriars Canterbury stores only.
4. There is no cash alternative.
5. All entries must be received by 19 March 2010.



Answer: _____

Name: _____

Mum's name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Postcode: _____

Sex: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Age: ☐ 24 and under
☐ 25-34
☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54
☐ 55+

☐ Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to be kept informed of news and special offers at Whitefriars by email.

WHITEFRIARS Canterbury

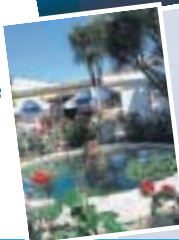
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Mayfair*	£399	£449	£489	£529	£519
Norfolk BB	£279	£319	£349	£369	£379

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yourmusic

A packed week at Hook festival



ECLECTIC: Dreadzone bring a fusion of reggae, techno trance and folk to Quarterhouse

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

JAZZ, indie, blues, pop and dub reggae are just some of the range of musical genres being performed at this week's Hook festival in Folkestone.

It's the second such event at the town's arts venue Quarterhouse since it opened last year.

Highlights include Barker and Shaw at the Movies this Friday March 12, where acclaimed jazz musicians Guy Barker and Ian Shaw celebrate the joy of cinema.

Mercury Prize-nominated trumpeter, composer and broadcaster Barker joins forces with Hythe jazz vocalist and pianist Ian Shaw for an evening dedicated to the silver screen.

Tickets for the show at 8pm are £12.50 with £10 concessions, and a £22 meal deal is also available.

On Saturday, March 13, energetic indie outfit Dogs take to the stage, fresh from touring with the likes of Paul Weller, Razorlight and The Enemy.

The band will be supported by Kent-based Autumn Few, The Flack and Nic Bennett with Club Buff DJs. Tickets are £7 and the night kicks off at 7.30pm.

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Maiuko, based in Folkestone's Creative Quarter, brings her blend of African sounds, jazz and blues on Sunday evening.

Preparing for the release of her next album Roots Harmonia later this year, Maiuko and her Quartet will be supported by Laye Sow and Paul Cheneour. Tickets are £7 in advance or £8 on the night.

Then at 8pm on Friday, March 19, Dreadzone bring their eclectic fusion of dub reggae, techno, trance and folk. Last year saw the band play to huge crowds at festivals and venues around the UK and Europe. Tickets are £14.

An evening of Salsa on Saturday, March 20, starts off with a class from Salsa Tiempo before hitting the floor with one of the hottest bands around, Palenke. Tickets are £12 or £10 concessions starting at 7pm, with a £22 meal deal.

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TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 The Suspects - 27/2 King Edward VII, Margate
- 2 Craig Sheridan - 27/2 The Alma, Deal
- 3 Shelta - 5/3 Water Rats, Grays Inn Road
- 4 Audio Bullies - 19/3 Westcoast Bar, Margate
- 5 Rock Night (various artists, including Colt 44) King Edward VII, Margate

Saturday, March 27, sees Gabby Young and Other Animals play their unique experimental take on folk, indie and pop, supported by Kent-based Syd Arthur. Tickets are £8, starting at 8pm.

Free events for children include junk percussion show Bang On! on Sunday March 11.

To book call the Quarterhouse on 01303 858500, go to www.quarterhouse.co.uk or visit the box office in Tontine Street, Folkestone.



SHOPPERS' PARADISE: Chatuchak market is the perfect place to restock your wardrobe, with more than 5,000 stalls to choose from

yourgetaways

Pick up a bargain before relaxing in exotic luxury

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

UNLIKE Prague, Berlin and Paris, the capital city of Thailand – Bangkok – hasn't yet made it into the city break hall of fame.

However, as airlines cut long-haul fares to beat the recession, more travellers are likely to find themselves stopping off there, either as a curtain-raiser to the rest of this intriguing country or breaking their journey to some far flung shore for a dose of winter sun.

We'd wisely chosen a hotel that offered respite from the city's hub-bub, the newly-opened President Place Hotel in the business area of Sukhumvit.

Within easy reach of the main markets and historic centre of Bangkok, it still manages to provide luxuriously big rooms, free wi-fi and a swimming pool – all from 4,000 baht (£76) per night.

In the company of a girlfriend, we decided that before hitting the sights, including Bangkok's extraordinary Royal Palace, we needed to pay our respects to one of Bangkok's great cultural landmarks – Chatuchak market.

Open every weekend, this open-air, 5000-plus stall affair is well known among travellers as the only place to go for incredible bargains and a once-in-a-lifetime shopping experience.

Although prices have gradually crept up to match the spending capacity of the more wealthy customers, Chatuchak is still perfect for finding cheap clothes, jewellery and obscure presents.

Heaving with shoppers by midday,

FACT FILE: BANGKOK

Time difference	+Seven hours (GMT)
Capital	Bangkok
Language	Thai
Population	77,500,000
Currency	Baht
Religion	Buddhist

Sarah O'Meara flew with Thai Airways, which offers Bangkok return fares ex-Heathrow from £509 (two travelling) which include return domestic flights within Thailand to one of 12 destinations. Offer applies for travel until June 30 if booked by March 31. Room rates at the President Park Hotel, Bangkok, start at 4,000 baht (£76).



it's best to get there early (as it's a lot cooler), and accept that at one point you're bound to lose your companions.

As the second most expensive city in south-east Asia, behind Singapore, it can be easy to feel a little small in Bangkok. Edifices built with the profits of high finance soar up around you, filled with luxurious restaurants and extraordinary views.

It's easy for those with just a few baht in their pocket to wander straight past, but don't miss out on this side of the city just because you've got into the habit of spending £1 on lunch.

Head to the bar at the top of one of the hotels. These are open to everyone and are the most perfect setting for a cocktail.

Try the Banyan Tree's Moon bar,

which is located on the 61st floor.

Of all the five-star hotels overlooking the Chao Phraya river at the heart of the city, none sum up the feelings of old-school elegance quite like this 130-year-old hotel, which has seen Joseph Conrad and Ernest Hemingway walk through its doors.

Taking you back to a long-lost era of ceiling fans, lush indoor plants, wooden slatted windows and waiters, dinner on its charming terrace feels like an obligation, rather than a choice.

After two full body massages, followed by a herbal steam and scrub, we left the grandeur of the hotel's spa and hopped on to the hotel's private boat, which took us back across the river for dinner, dressed in our newly purchased dresses.

There are definitely worse ways to spend an evening.

MOTORS NEWS



Value for money Skoda winds up the Audi set

NO FAVOURS are sought or given at Volkswagen, judging by the way Skoda's Superb Estate bargain stacks up against VW posh brand Audi's A6 Avant.

The newcomer from VW's Czech brand starts at £17,715 for petrol versions with generous standard kit while the German exec model starts at ten grand more with a fairly ordinary spec for openers.

Most buyers though will surely check out the Superb diesel line-up from £18,185 also including a 'poor man's Quattro' 4x4 version from £23,770.



Mazda's economic new 6 a tax beater

ZOOM-Zoom motor brand Mazda has revised its company car star for 2010.

Dartford-based Mazda UK says the new-look Mazda6 hatchback and estate line-up (from £16,990) has been refreshed inside and out and Benefit in Kind tax, fuel economy and CO2 emissions improved – the latter are now as low as 138g/km.

Mazda UK sales and marketing chief Mark Cameron said: "Dynamic and engaging driving characteristics have also played a big part in the success of Mazda6 and they remain at the heart of the upgraded model."



Micra No4 a step up in the high-tech stakes

NISSAN has taken the wraps off its fourth-generation Micra supermini, due here this autumn.

The design does not look as mould-breaking as its predecessor, but the Japanese brand says the newcomer will break ground technically with an all-new three-cylinder petrol engine including supercharged, direct injection and ultra low-emission versions.

It will also be offered with a highly-efficient new generation Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT – automatic) – probably a sign of where smaller cars are going.

Cabin space should be good too with a longer wheelbase.



FAULT FEAR: The third-generation Prius is one of three million Toyota cars recalled by the Japanese motoring giant worldwide due to a potentially sticky throttle pedal

King of the motor world Toyota's annus horribilis

IT HAS been an uncharacteristically bad year for Toyota.

The Japanese giant recorded its first net loss in 59 years last May and is now embroiled in a worldwide recall of some three million Toyotas – nearly 181,000 in the UK – to sort out a potential risk from sticky throttle pedals.

And now its reputation as an eco-pioneer has been sullied by a recall affecting the third-generation Prius hybrid. Some 8,500 UK cars will need a software upgrade by dealers.

It's a dramatic twist though to the everyday story of Prius ownership; apart from dashboard graphics you can select, showing what the hybrid petrol-electric powertrain is doing what at any given moment, you soon forget that this is a cutting edge piece of kit.

For the five-door Prius (from £19,504) has become so mainstream, comfortable and well-equipped that it appeals to everyday users as much as well-heeled eco-warriors.

On the other hand, it highlights how dull it is to drive, especially once you slip into the 'eco-motoring' mindset needed to please the dashboard display.

At least it looks sleeker and feels lighter

ROAD TEST TOYOTA PRIUS

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

on its feet though, thanks to a 90 per cent re-engineering of the hybrid system and auto gearbox.

The old 1.5-litre engine has made way for a new 1.8, bringing 24 per cent more power totalling 134bhp in tandem with the car's electric motor.

This gives equivalent performance to a conventional 2.0-litre family car and addresses the Mark II's Achilles Heel – poor motorway fuel consumption.

Cruising efficiency is said to be up 10 per cent now, with an official combined fuel consumption of 72.4mpg.

Driving deliberately as 'Mr Awkward' I couldn't get near that, but I reckon I was up in the 50s and 60s most of the time and despite one high speed dash of about 80 miles, so the big weakness has been put right.

The Prius also now has the lowest CO2 emissions (89g/km) of any UK family car and qualifies for zero road tax – the previous car was liable to £35/year – and can even be switched to EV (electric vehicle) running only, producing zero emissions for up to two kilometres at speeds up to 31mph – ideal for school runs and shopping trips.



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MORE ROAD TESTS
BY STEVE LOADER @
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What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



Octavia or Fabia. Happy Scrapping.

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Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 22,473 miles. £7,495

Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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Skoda Fabia 1.9 TD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Sports Cross-tuck interior, 42,000 miles. £7,995

Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance DSG 5-Dr Hatchback

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Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 46,500 miles. £8,995

Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

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Other Makes

Fiat Panda 1.1 Active 5-Door Hatchback

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Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Bright Red with a Black Cloth interior, 39,350 miles. £3,995

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet

Finished in Artic Steel Metallic with a Grey Cloth - Velour interior, 86,467 miles. £4,495

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 Special 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Adriatic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £4,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 2-Door Convertible

Finished in Moonland Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 41,000 miles. £5,795

SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV

Finished in Pearl Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 92,500 miles. £6,295

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 40,055 miles. £6,295

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate

Finished in Metro Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth - Leather interior, 29,700 miles. £6,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Silver Lightning Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 33,364 miles. £6,995

Peugeot 307 CC 2.0 16V 180

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 32,747 miles. £7,795

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Nayara Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 20,695 miles. £8,495

Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Expression 5-Door Hatchback

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FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE PATRIOT RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 24.4 (11.6) - 32.1 (8.8), EXTRA URBAN 37.2 (7.6) - 51.4 (5.6), COMBINED 33.2 (8.5) - 42.2 (6.7). CO2 EMISSIONS IN G/KM 180 - 210. *On the road price includes 12 months road tax (license), £215, first registration fee, £35 and VAT at 17.5%. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press (3/1/10). Finance is subject to status. You may be liable to pay for any accidental damage to the vehicle or excess wear and tear with regard to its age and mileage. A guarantee may be required. You must be at least 18 to apply for finance. Finance is provided by Black Horse Motor Finance. These offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered by 31st March 2010. These offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to press. Cars shown have optional metallic paint. Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Models shown for illustrative purposes. Prices and specification correct at time of going to press.

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SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2002, 72,000 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Alloy wheels, Computer, Cruise control, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Foglights, Front armrest, Head restraints, Headlight washers, Heated seats, Park distance control, Power assisted steering, Rear armrest, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Manual Transmission, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass.. Insurance Group:17,**£5,495**



SAAB 9-3 2.2 TID SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 2001 Y Reg., 122,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Central locking, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Foglights, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Full Service History, Alarm, Climate Control, Cloth upholstery, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Child locks, Service indicator. Insurance Group:12,**£3,195**



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PROPERTY NEWS

Now is the right time to build it yourself

THE current situation sees a more favourable environment for self-build homes, according to one industry expert.

Increased land availability, falling prices and cheaper materials and labour mean there is a real demand from homeowners frustrated by the current property market, according to Raymond Connor, chief executive of construction supplier BuildStore.

"There has never been a better time or more affordable time, to build your own house," he said.

Mr Connor called on the Government and local authorities to recognise this trend and aid self-build projects.

Bank reviews range of new lending products

NATWEST Intermediary Solutions has added a buy-to-let product to its range, and altered the rates on other products.

The two-year fixed rate mortgage now offers an initial rate of 3.55 per cent up to a maximum loan-to-value of 70 per cent, with a £999 arrangement fee.

A buy-to-let two-year tracker mortgage has been added to the range, offering an initial rate of 4.99 per cent up to 70 per cent LTV with a £1,999 fee.

In NatWest's launch range the rate on its two-year tracker 90 per cent LTV mortgage has been increased to offer an initial rate of 5.69 per cent with a £999 fee and its three-year fixed rate 90 per cent LTV mortgage has increased to an initial rate of 6.59 per cent.

Experts predict bright future for landlords

AFTER 18 months of uncertainty for the buy-to-let market experts are predicting better times ahead for landlords, says specialist insurance website Coverlines

Experts say that property probably won't get any cheaper and there is still demand for good quality accommodation in the right location from tenants.

And while property prices have fallen, rents have not seen a similar dip.

According to research from Paragon Mortgages, a specialist buy-to-let lender, most landlords have been able to maintain their charges over the last couple of years, with a significant minority saying they have even been able to raise them.

But while properties are now cheaper, mortgages are not so easy to come by.



CHANGING TIMES: The post-war need to reduce urban sprawl has been replaced by the need to take climate change and quality of life into account, says Professor Beddington

Call to review strategy on long-term land use

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Government needs to overhaul the land use planning system to cope with future housing needs and the green agenda, its chief scientist has warned.

Professor John Beddington has warned the current land use system – which dates back to World War Two – is not fit for purpose in the 21st century.

He said that many of its statutes are dated and far greater provision needs to be made for environmental concerns which were simply not on the agenda more than half a century ago when the strategy currently being used was drawn up.

Acknowledged expert on environmental affairs Prof Beddington said post-war aims such as reducing urban sprawl have been met and that planners would now need to focus on problems like providing more residential and commercial development.

He made his statement in a report Land Use

Futures, which was sponsored by government departments Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Communities and Local Government.

Another vital factor to be taken into account is the overall quality of life for residents who will see things such as climate change have a lasting impact on coming generations.

He said more development would be needed in the next 50 years to cope with an ageing population, and development needed to be planned to reduce pressure on transport infrastructure.

Problems would be most acute in the South East, he added.

"Business as usual is not an option over the long-term," he said. "Without being smart about how land is used, we risk missing targets, such as halting biodiversity loss."

"The effects of climate change and new pressures on land could escalate, seriously eroding

the quality of life," said Prof Beddington. He said the Government needed to make critical choices on the priorities for land use in different parts of the UK, how to accommodate more development while protecting landscapes, and how to promote use of the land that is sustainable.

Prof Beddington is a specialist in the economics and biology of sustainable management of renewable resources, and has previously advised UK ministers on scientific and environmental issues.

He chairs the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs science advisory panel and the Defence Scientific Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Natural Environmental Research Council.

He has also advised the European Commission and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Professor Beddington was awarded the Heidelberg Award for Environmental Excellence in June 1997 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2001

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• 2 FURTHER LOFT ROOMS
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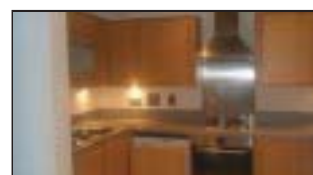
Price Range £275,000 - £295,000
• SOME ORIGINAL FEATURES
• LARGE GARDEN
• VIEWS OVER GOLF COURSE
• POPULAR LOCATION
REF: Rainham_61642S



Lordwood
• END OF TERRACE
• STARTER HOME
• 1 BEDROOM
• 1 RECEPTION



OIEO £105,000
• UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
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• NO CHAIN
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• FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
• OFF ROAD PARKING
• IDEAL FAMILY HOME
• NO CHAIN
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Gillingham
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• 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE / DINER
• CLOAKROOM



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• ALLOCATED PARKING
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REF: inst-337



Lordwood
 • SEMI DETACHED HOME
 • 3 BEDROOMS
 • 2 RECEPTIONS
 • MODERN FITTED KITCHEN



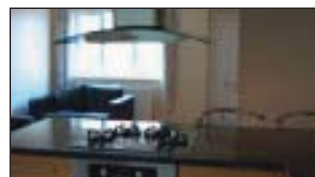
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 • GOOD SIZE REAR GARDEN
 • OFF ROAD PARKING
 • CLOSE TO AMENITIES
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 • 1 RECEPTION ROOM
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Gillingham
 • 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM TERRACE
 • EXTENDED LOUNGE DINER
 • CONSERVATORY
 • FAMILY BATHROOM



OIEO £164,995
 • GAS CENTRAL HEATING
 • DOUBLE GLAZING
 • GOOD SIZE GARDEN
 • GARAGE AND DRIVE
 REF: Rainham 60133S



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 • 2 BEDROOM MID-TERRACE
 • LOUNGE / DINER
 • REFITTED KITCHEN
 • ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN



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 • CONSERVATORY



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 • BLOCK PAVED DRIVE
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 • OPEN PLAN LIVING ACCOMMODATION
 • MODERN KITCHEN
 • MODERN 1ST FLOOR BATHROOM



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 • DOUBLE GLAZING
 • GAS CENTRAL HEATING
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 • IDEAL FAMILY HOME
 • NO FORWARD CHAIN
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- Garage and driveway parking. No Chain

OIEO £160,000

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- Bathroom, utility area
- lounge and a kitchen/diner.

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- Two reception rooms.
- Double glazing, central heating.

OIEO £140,000

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Sheerness,

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- Lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom

OIEO £130,000

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- central heating, double glazing

£115,000

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Sheerness,

- Three bedroom house
- open plan lounge, kitchen,
- conservatory, bathroom.

£105,000

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Sheerness,

- Two bedroom park home.
- lounge, kitchen,
- bathroom, ensuite and shower room.

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£79,950

One bedroom first floor, warden assisted apartment with additional communal areas available. 24 hour emergency assistance. Monday - Friday House Manager.

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£81,000

One bedroom flat. Open plan lounge/kitchen, bedroom, bathroom. Allocated parking. NO CHAIN

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£109,995

Two bedroom house. Double glazing. Approx. 75ft rear garden. Two double bedrooms. Convenient access to A249.

Sittingbourne



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One bedroom ground floor flat. Wall enclosed courtyard garden & allocated parking. The kitchen with a built in oven and gas hob.

Sittingbourne



£124,995

Two bed top floor flat. Lounge/dining area. Allocated parking and communal garden area. NO CHAIN

Sittingbourne



£144,950

Bay fronted terrace house in south Sittingbourne with two bedrooms, two reception rooms, two bathrooms and garage.

Sittingbourne



£147,500

Four bedroom terrace house with d/glazing & c/heating. En suite to master, garden, lounge and diner. No forward chain.

Sittingbourne



£162,000

Extended four bedroom house. South Sittingbourne. No chain. Convenient access to town centre and schools.

Sittingbourne



£165,000

Four bedroom semi detached house, wheelchair access, drive to side, double glazing, central heating.

Sittingbourne



£165,000

Three bedroom end of terrace house with countryside views in cul de sac location. Downstairs cloakroom.

www.bairstoweves.co.uk

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Doddington | £215,000

- Attractive cottage in sought after rural location
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- Gardens to front and rear, no chain

FAVERSHAM OFFICE | 01795 535517



Minster On Sea | Price Range £170,000 - £185,000

- 3 bedrooms, Shower Room Plus Bathroom
- Lounge 18'5 x 11'5, 14'9 x 6'11 Dining Area
- Parking for Caravan/Boat

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- Garage & Driveway, Cul-de-sac Location, No Chain

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Sheerness | Price Range: £100,000 - £115,000

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Sheerness | Price Range £90,000 - £100,000

- 3 Bedrooms, Downstairs Bathroom
- Kitchen Plus Utility Area
- Lounge & Separate Dining Room

SHEERNESS OFFICE | 01795 664651



Murston, Sittingbourne | Price Range £80,000 - £100,000

- 1 Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
- Professionally Converted Character Building
- Parking Space in under building garage

SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE | 01795 427272



Faversham | £79,995

- Ground floor flat, lounge and bedroom area
- Kitchen, bathroom & cloakroom, garden, garage
- Ideal Buy to Let, First time purchase or retirement

FAVERSHAM OFFICE | 01795 535517



Milton Regis | Price Range: £75,000 - £85,000

- Refurbished First Floor One Bedroomed Flat
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Off Road Parking & Excellent Value

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For your ideal home, contact your local branch:

Faversham: 01795 535517

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Sittingbourne: 01795 427272

TO ADVERTISE: EMAIL US @: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040 FAX US ON: 01303 817004

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- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
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- PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES
- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 41-44

Cleaning Staff required to clean offices in Whitstable and Herne Bay.

Must operate to a high standard and be conscientious and trustworthy. References and CRB check required. Excellent rates of pay. Apply in writing with CV to:

Parry Law Solicitors

12 - 14 Oxford Street, Whitstable
CT5 1DE Ref KJT
No Agencies

Chef required

to run new fish restaurant within the Whitstable area. For more details please Contact Isaura Viveiros

Tel: **01227 752211**

A2 CABS LTD
Full & Part Time
TAXI DRIVER'S
Required
Please contact
Elaine
01795 431500

CONSUMER CREDIT/LOANS
EVENING AND WEEK-END COLLECTION AGENTS
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY 5.PM - 9.PM
AND SATURDAYS 10.AM - 1.PM
MINIMUM COMMISSION £200
 Contact Darren Baines on
07977 137247

ABC Electrically Biased Site Supervisor

required by a Nationally based Specialist Company working within the Medical Pre-Installation field. Negotiated Package.

Computer experience essential.

Must be willing to work away from home.

E-mailed C.V. applications only to smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk

NO AGENCIES, NO TELEPHONE CALLS

Commercial Manager

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector. With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feed back. Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to
Commercial,
PO Box 462, Ramsgate,
Kent, CT11 1AW.



Saint George's Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 • Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

DIRECTOR OF MATHEMATICS

TLR1a (£12,114) or L8 - L12
(negotiable based on experience)

We wish to appoint an excellent classroom practitioner to lead, develop and promote excellence in teaching and learning in Maths.

Maths is taught to A Level and 53% of students achieved grades A*-C in Maths in 2009. We are fully staffed with specialist mathematicians.

Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed comprehensive school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwal@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 24 March 2010



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Director of Facilities

Ref: DIR08

Salary: Circa 60K (Dependent upon qualifications and experience)
Medway/Maidstone

MidKent College is a large, successful Further Education College based in the Medway towns and Maidstone. With a new state of the art campus in Medway we are now looking for an experienced and qualified manager to direct and manage the strategic development of our estate, including a full refurbishment programme for our Maidstone site.

You should hold MCIOB, MRICS or equivalent qualifications and ideally will have experience of project management in the Further Education sector. You will require strong interpersonal skills and a range of communication techniques to support the process of change, engaging with staff and stakeholders in developing new business processes for facilities management. Your capabilities as a strategic thinker will be used to develop whole College solutions that maximise the estate as an asset and provide the widest possible learning opportunities for people in Medway and Maidstone.

For an informal discussion please contact *Rishi Sharma* on 01634 383515
Closing date: Friday 19 March 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TO JOIN AND ENHANCE OUR LARGE AND EXPANDING, HIGH CALIBRE TEAM.

MEDWAY SCALE, GRADE D2
£15,039 - £19,126 PRO-RATA
+ SEN ALLOWANCE (£1,177)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.


This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

Closing date: 19.3.10

For an application pack, please write to/telephone

(stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP
(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted



Saint George's

Church of England School
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

Caretaker

(Full time post – 37 hours per week)

Salary Kent Scheme Band 4, points 11-14 (£15,984 to £16,793 p.a.)

General maintenance and caretaking duties, working alternate shift patterns:
A: 05:00 to 14:00 (3/5 days) and 05:00 to 13:30 (2/5 days)
B: 13:00 to 22:00 (3/5 days), 13:30 to 22:00 (1/5 days)
and 13:30 to 19:30 (1/5 days).

Good team working skills and the ability to interact positively with students are essential.

Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed comprehensive school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.
Email dhariwali@saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 24 March 2010

Telesales Executive

KOS Media Group


ASHFORD

Exciting developments at KOS Media has created the need to appoint a polished sales professional.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, ideally from within media together with knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target-related bonus, plus five weeks annual holiday.

If you believe you have the skills and motivation we require, please submit your CV to Head of Department
christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk



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£27,849 - £32,800 + ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM
FULL TIME • 37 HOURS PER WEEK
BASED ASHFORD

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. You will be a member of the Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) team working across our stepped care services in Ashford. You will undertake a clinical caseload and line manage a designated number of staff, mentor new team members and assist in the provision of good, evidence based practice. The centre offers services between 8am and 8pm on week days, and on Saturday mornings. Therefore working hours will need to be flexible.

You must be BACP, BABCP or UKCP accredited, highly experienced as a therapist with a Diploma in Counselling and trained to work in an area recognised by the NICE guidelines (couple counselling, IPT, CBT or psychodynamic models). You will also have good management skills, an enthusiastic approach to evidence based practice and a commitment to service development.


For more information please contact Susan Wyles, Service Manager on 07725 433267.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number: 645.

Closing date: 26 March 2010. • Interview date: 9 April 2010 in Ashford.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.
Charity no: 292824

www.kca.org.uk






YOU ARE

A motivated and ambitious teacher seeking a new challenge at a school which places a strong emphasis upon pupils' practical development.

WE ARE

The Westlands School

WITH EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

All required for September 2010 or sooner

Instructor/Teacher of Hairdressing

The school currently offers Hairdressing Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Women's Hairdressing in KS5 and is planning to develop further courses at KS4 and KS5 including the Diploma in Hair and Beauty. Candidates with relevant hairdressing experience or who are currently working in a salon are encouraged to apply. Training will be given to those who do not have relevant teaching experience.

Teacher/Instructor of Hospitality

The school currently offers Hospitality BTEC at Levels 2 and 3 in KS4 and KS5 and is planning to extend into the new Diploma Course. An ability to offer a second subject such as Food Technology/Catering or Travel and Tourism would be an advantage. Instructors with post 16 experience or relevant industrial experience are encouraged to apply. Candidates seeking part time employment are also welcome to apply.

Teacher/Instructor of Public Services

The school introduced a BTEC Public Services at levels 2 and 3 last year and has had a successful take-up. We are now planning to introduce the new Diploma Course and are seeking teachers/instructors to run these courses.

Ofsted Report 2008
"The Westlands School provides an outstanding quality of education and care for its pupils"



You are welcome to contact the Headteacher for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date, Friday, 19 March 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne,
Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA

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01303 817040

Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

As a graduate have you considered a career in teaching via the GTP route?

Current salary of £15,817 during training.

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christchurch University, is inviting applicants to join our Graduate Teacher programme from September 2010 in

Science / Maths

Further details, including an application form, are available from the school's website, www.raaave.com or from Muireann Casserly, e-mail mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

The closing date for application is Friday 19th March 2010.

Office Assistant

£15,039 – £16,830 PRO RATA • 15 HOURS PER WEEK (THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS) • BASED MAIDSTONE

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

You will be the first point of contact to all callers, visitors and Service Users accessing KCA's Maidstone office. You must be confident handling enquiries about the service, whether by telephone, e-mail, post or in person and ensure that enquiries are dealt with promptly, efficiently and courteously.

As a key member of the Administration team, you will have top MS Office skills and a 'can do' approach. You will be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff, partnership agencies and external contacts in a highly professional manner. You need to be able to prioritise, work to tight deadlines and respond appropriately to referrals. An ability to remain calm under pressure would be a great advantage.




If you would like further information on this post please call Christine Gordon, Administration Lead on 01795 590795 ex.2 or Michelle Snook West Kent and Medway Prescribing Lead on 01622 690944.

Closing date: 15 March 2010 at 5pm. • Interview date: 29 March 2010.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 643.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



rebound.
Children's Services

His life has just been turned upside down and he doesn't know how to deal with it

Training Centre Assistants

Medway Secure Training Centre, Rochester
£20,159 pa | 40 hours per week (early and late shifts)

Life can be an uphill struggle for young people who have been sentenced or remanded into custody. There are many challenges that they need to face to reach a brighter future. They are often angry, scared, confused or even destructive. They may not want to communicate. They may not know how to communicate and that's where you come in.

As part of our committed team, your energetic and enthusiastic attitude will gain the respect of our young people. You'll help them to take stock of their lives, adopt a more positive approach and learn to respect others.

Working directly with the young people, helping them learn social and life skills, motivating them to complete their daily tasks and ensuring that the centre rules are followed are just a few of the things you'll do.

You'll need to be non-judgmental and compassionate with a firm but fair approach. Helping to build self esteem, you'll help to guide our young people to a fresh start and release their true potential.

Think you've got what it takes to make a real difference? Call us now on 01634 823322 Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 4.30pm quoting ref: KSTC03.

Closing date: 19th March 2010. An assessment day will be held on 1st April 2010 and successful applicants will join us on 10th May 2010.

Please note that these vacancies are subject to a 10 year checkable history, an enhanced CRB check and the strict vetting standards set by Rebound and the Secretary of State for the Home Office and are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

www.reboundcd.com

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permission must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertisement.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action by the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its any television or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the advertisement. Payment by the advertiser to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
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The deadline for applications is Friday 26th March.

Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.

**Please contact Jennifer Spooner, HR Manager, on direct telephone
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**DISAPPOINTED:** Old Bordenians exited the National Vase

Old Boys suffer extra-time heartache

OLD Bordenians exited the National Vase at the hands of Tamworth on Sunday in the cruellest manner possible, after twice taking the lead in Staffordshire.

Glenn Prebble's double-strike proved to be in vain for the Sittingbourne-based side as Tamworth forced an own goal in the last minute of extra-time to break Bordenian hearts.

Having lost 6-4 to Canterbury Pilgrims in the league a day earlier, the Old Boys made a bright start and stamped their authority on the tie as Prebble opened the scoring.

HOCKEY

Tamworth 3 Old Bordenians 2

Tamworth responded quickly but were initially unable to break down the visitors' defence, although they did eventually draw level from a short corner.

Parity was short-lived, though, and Prebble scored his second of the afternoon from a Bordenians' short corner and it looked like they would hold the advantage through to half-time.

However, Tamworth clawed their way back for a second time and the sides went in at 2-2, paving the way for a tightly-fought second-half.

Bordenians felt harshly treated when they had a goal disallowed and were then denied what they felt was a clear penalty.

The game entered golden goal extra-time and the first seven minutes ended with the scores still level. With barely a minute remaining, a slip allowed Tamworth to pounce and the ball went in off a Bordenians player to send them crashing out.

Picture DAVID HICKS

**MAGIC:** Dean Gaunt scored a superb try

Gaunt's try inspires Bourne to valuable win in race for third

RUGBY

Sittingbourne 25

Gillingham Anchorians 17

SITTINGBOURNE are up to third in Kent 1 after they overcame Gillingham Anchorians at The Grove while Guy's Hospital were losing to second-placed Cranbrook.

Captain Scott Truss got Bourne off the mark with two early penalties but Anchorians scored the first try of the afternoon, which was converted to give the visitors a 7-6 lead.

However, Dean Gaunt produced a moment of magic to lift the hosts, collecting a loose ball in his own 22 and sprinting the length of the field to touch down, with Truss adding the conversion.

The gap was closed to three points at the interval, though, with Anchorians kicking a penalty late in the half to leave the contest wide open.

Two tries in ten second-half minutes were to prove the eventual difference for Sittingbourne, who increased their lead through Allan Chapman on 50 minutes.

From a line-out, Sittingbourne's maul gained ground and hooker Chris Nutley fed Chapman, who was on hand to dive over. Truss added the extras and Bourne led 20-10.

Rob McNamara then broke away on the hour mark and fed Chris Nanson, who in turn fed Sam Catlin. Catlin's pace was enough to take him away from the Anchorians defence and he crossed to score, putting the hosts 15 points clear.

Ten minutes from time Gillingham scored a converted try to reduce the deficit to 25-17.

Sittingbourne are now seven points behind Cranbrook with two games in hand, although Guy's are just a point behind them with Anchorians now two further back.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture JON KIRKUP

SUCCESS: Tom Bradbrook (left) scored the first goal for Sittingbourne after Jimmy Bottle (right) crossed for the Brickies striker to give his side a first minute lead

Bradbrook's early goal sets Sittingbourne on their way

FOOTBALL

■ BY STEVE TERTVET

Dulwich Hamlet 0

Sittingbourne 2

Bradbrook 1, James OG 5

Just 30 seconds had elapsed when Jimmy Bottle raced down the left and crossed for Tom Bradbrook, who had the simplest of tasks to plant his header beyond Dulwich goalkeeper Phil Wilson.

The lead was doubled in the fifth minute, with Hicham Akhazzan the provider from the right and Hamlet's Kevin James could only turn the ball into his own net.

Sol Pinnock's effort floated wide as Dulwich produced a rare moment of attacking quality, but the Brickies should have been out of sight as Bradbrook, Bottle and Karl Dent all went close to making it 3-0.

From a Sanchez Ming corner, Ellis Wilson-Joseph then headed narrowly wide in Hamlet's best attempt before half-time.

Sittingbourne starting XI



Subs used: Pain (Kayembe 76), Golding (Bradbrook 89)

Playing with the wind at their backs, Sittingbourne monopolised possession in the second period but Pinnock twice went close to getting on the scoresheet for the hosts.

First, he saw his effort hacked off the line and Steve Williams – continuing to deputise in goal for the injured Deren Ibrahim – then saved well as the striker ran through.

Abbott said: "Last year we were losing to the bottom clubs but this year we're not doing that and that's the difference. We always do well against the top sides and the boys are all enjoying their football – you can't beat a winning habit."

Sittingbourne were in action last night as they hosted Burgess Hill Town. Log on to www.yourswale.co.uk for match details.

Town all set for grudge cup match with the Bay

FOOTBALL

BY STEVE Tervet

Faversham Town 2

Shearer 25 pen, 79

Deal Town 1

Suter 52

TONIGHT sees the two Kent League challengers go head-to-head at Winch's Field, although their battle will be for a cup final place, not league points.

Faversham Town are looking forward to a Kent Senior Trophy final against Greenwich Borough, who beat tonight's Premier Division Cup opponents, Herne Bay, in the other semi-final on Saturday.

The Lilywhites have beaten Bay twice this season but, under Simon Halsey, the hosts have strung together eight straight league wins to maintain their title challenge and tonight should highlight exactly how closely the sides are matched.

Town manager Justin Luchford was named manager of the month for February and he admitted tonight's game was one for him and Faversham's flying squad to relish.

"We're looking forward to it," he said. "They will be hurting from Saturday and they are a



CAPTAIN: Damian Abel led the Town side for 70 minutes

good, young side who will want to put things right. Simon [Halsey] has done a very good job but he hasn't done a lot different to Barry [Morgan, Halsey's predecessor] – he's got the same players and he's got them doing the simple things well."

Bay's 3-0 league defeat at Salter's Lane on November 7 proved to be Morgan's last game in charge and Halsey's side will be out to prove they have what it takes not only to reach the final, but to pip Faversham to the league title.

The Lilywhites were forced to play 70 minutes of Saturday's 2-1 win against Deal Town

Faversham Town starting XI



Subs used: Luchford (Sinden 46)

with ten men after captain Tom Hickman was shown two yellow cards before the 20-minute mark, but the hosts went ahead shortly after.

Shane Hamshire was clearly tripped as he ran into the penalty area and the ever-dependable Lee Shearer was on hand to blast home the spot-kick.

Town held their lead to half-time but Deal's pressure began to mount, prompting Luchford to withdraw striker Richard Sinden, replacing him with Dane Luchford in an attempt to regain control of midfield.

However, Deal equalised seven minutes into the half courtesy of Shane Suter and continued to push Faversham back without ever troubling goalkeeper Rob French.

Shearer came to Town's rescue with 11 minutes remaining, however, volleying home after a corner had been knocked into his path.

Michael Dodsworth and John-Paul Collier are both suspended for tonight's first-leg tie, while Dave Botterill misses the game through suspension.

FOOTBALL



LATE GOAL: Norton Sports drew against Erith

Erith snatch late leveller to dampen Norton's spirits

Norton Sports 2 Erith Town 2

NORTON Sports left Winch's Field disappointed on Saturday, having led Erith Town 2-0 only to be pegged back with six minutes remaining.

The hosts had started the game the brighter of the two sides with Ryan Rook causing problems on the right and Harry Goodger proving a handful up front.

Despite their early dominance, though, few clear-cut opportunities were created with Norton's best opportunities coming from set-pieces while Erith looked to catch Norton out on the counter-attack.

The closest either side went to scoring came on the stroke of half-time when Tony Clark's floated effort clipped the top of the bar with the Erith goalkeeper stranded.

The second-half started in a similar fashion but on 51 minutes, a free-kick was flicked on by Norton player-manager Ben Taylor for Lewis Rivett to tap home from six-yards.

The advantage was doubled six minutes later when another Rook set-piece found its way through the pack to substitute Ian Fullagher who headed home at the far post.

With a third of the match still to play, Norton needed to keep things tight but within five minutes Erith were back in the game when a cross from the left was partially cleared and Tom Bradshaw hit a controlled volley into the unguarded net.

Rook and Harry Goodger both went close to a third Norton goal as the home side looked to secure their first league win at home since September.

However, they were stung in the 84th minute when James Taylor ran through to slip the ball beyond Smith and snatch a point for Erith.

Norton were back at Winch's Field for their third successive home fixture last night as they hosted Deal Town. Log on to www.yoursware.co.uk for match details.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta (-10)	29	21	5	3	+23	58
2 Croydon Athletic	27	17	6	4	+33	57
3 Worthing	30	18	3	9	+21	57
4 Fleet Town	30	16	4	10	+19	52
5 Walton & Hersham	30	15	6	9	+10	51
6 Godalming Town (-3)	26	16	3	7	+17	48
7 Sittingbourne	27	14	5	8	+20	47
8 Burgess Hill Town	29	11	9	9	+5	42
9 Metropolitan Police	29	11	8	10	+11	41
10 Horsham YMCA	32	10	11	11	+2	41
11 Leatherhead	27	12	4	11	+11	40
12 Chatham Town	31	12	3	16	-13	39
13 Whyteleafe	30	11	5	14	+2	38
14 Ramsgate	30	9	11	10	-4	38
15 Merstham	30	10	8	12	-10	38
16 Dulwich Hamlet	30	9	10	11	-3	37
17 Corinthian-Casuals	30	10	3	17	-14	33
18 Chipstead	30	8	6	16	-14	30
19 Walton Casuals	31	6	8	17	-18	26
20 Whitstable Town	28	8	2	18	-35	26
21 Ashford Town	27	5	8	14	-31	23
22 Eastbourne Town	31	4	10	17	-32	22

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Faversham Town	21	17	2	2	+39	53
2 Herne Bay	18	14	1	3	+22	43
3 Sevenoaks Town	19	10	4	5	+10	34
4 Beckenham Town	20	9	5	6	+12	32
5 Erith & Belvedere	21	9	5	7	-2	32
6 Hythe Town	18	9	4	5	+24	31
7 Erith Town	19	8	5	6	+6	29
8 Greenwich Borough	19	8	5	6	+6	29
9 Deal Town	17	7	4	6	0	25
10 Tunbridge Wells	20	6	7	7	-2	25
11 Sporting Bengal Utd	24	7	4	13	-30	25
12 Holmesdale	19	6	3	10	-3	21
13 Norton Sports	17	5	3	9	-8	18
14 Corinthian	21	4	3	14	-25	15
15 Fisher	20	3	4	13	-25	13
16 Lordswood	19	1	7	11	-24	10

FIXTURES (Tonight): Kent League Premier Division Cup semi-final first leg: Herne Bay v Faversham Town; (Thursday): Championship Manager Cup fourth round: Sittingbourne v Wealdstone; (Saturday): Ryman Division One South: Sittingbourne v Metropolitan Police; Kent League Premier Division: Greenwich Borough v Norton Sports; Lordswood v Faversham Town



STROKE OF TALENT: Faversham Swimming Club had successful time at Development Gala in Sheerness

Club comes third at gala

SWIMMING

FAVERSHAM Swimming Club finished third at the development gala held at Sheerness Swimming Club, with 14 personal best times recorded.

Casey Harte's impressive display in the boys 14 years 50-metre butterfly smashed the Faversham club record in a time of 32.89. Meanwhile, nine-year-old Lucy Burchell was triumphant in the girls 25-metre freestyle and was awarded the Tesco Gala Star for her performance.

Rebecca Crouch, on her 11th birthday, celebrated by collecting the Tesco Gala Shield for gaining two personal best times at the meeting.

The Faversham swimmers snatching first place included Tom Aylen in the men's open 50-metre butterfly – a personal best time of 28.84, 50-metre freestyle – another personal

best of 27.17, and 50-metre backstroke.

Lydia Scott won the girls 11 years 50-metre breaststroke and 50-metre freestyle while Casey Harte swam to first place in the boys 13 years 50-metre butterfly in a new club record of 32.89. Completing Faversham's group of winners were Tom Guthrie (boys 12 years 50-metre breaststroke and 50-metre backstroke), Lucy Burchell (girls 9 years 25-metre freestyle), Rebecca Crouch (girls 11 years 50-metre backstroke and Flora Westlake (girls 10 years 50-metre breaststroke).

Joanne Hawkins, Jasmin Locke, Bridie Matthews and Ben Collins also left Sheerness having recorded personal best times and the club continued to feature in the top-three placings.

Faversham finished second in both the 12x25-metre breaststroke and freestyle relays while six further swimmers scooped individual second-placed finished and another six came in third.

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